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424

PART LXIX.

FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING THE

AFFAIRS OF TURKEY.

January to March 1882.

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CONFIDENTIAL.

Further Correspondence respecting the Affairs of Turkey.

PART LXIX.

No. 1.

Earl Granville to Sir A. Paget.

E
(No. 13.)

Foreign Office, January 6, 1882.

Sir,

THE Italian Ambassador told me to-day that his Government had received a despatch from the Chevalier Martino, their Agent at Sophia, representing that the time had come for joint and energetic action of the Powers in favour of the Mussulman population of Kustendil.

His Excellency said that the Italian Government would be glad to know our opinion on the subject.

I promised that I would look into the matter, and give him an early answer.

I am, &c.

(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 2.

Consul Sandwith to Earl Granville.—(Received January 7, 1882.)

(No. 60.)

Canea, Crete, December 26, 1881.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship copy of a despatch which I have written to his Excellency the Earl of Dufferin, on the subject of a memorial which has been addressed to me by the Christian members of the Administrative Council of Crete, complaining that the Porte had not yet accorded to the island Administration the half of the Customs dues to which, by the Arrangement of 1878, it has a right, nor sanctioned the Budget of the current financial year, beginning on the 13th March.

Photiades Pasha meanwhile has again received assurances that the Iradé granting the said Customs will be shortly forthcoming.

I have, &c.

(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

Inclosure 1 in No. 2.

Consul Sandwith to the Earl of Dufferin.

Canea, Crete, December 24, 1881.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose, for your Excellency's information, translation of a letter which has been addressed to me and my colleagues by the Christian members of the Administrative Council of this island. The letter points out that the Porte has failed to carry out the engagements it entered into with its Cretan subjects by the

Arrangement of 1878, in not according to the Local Administration the half of the Customs dues, or in sanctioning the Budget voted by the General Assembly of last April, on the credit side of which the moiety of the Customs figure. The members of the Assembly therefore are led to interpret the silence of the Porte as a refusal to grant the Customs dues, and as the faithful guardians of the rights acquired by the Cretan people, they see no alternative but to resign, in case the silence is persisted in.

The memorial addressed to the Porte, and the letter to the Vali referred to in the letter to the Consuls, set out at greater length the grievances complained of.

Photiades Pasha, aware of the step contemplated by the Christian members of the Administrative Council, telegraphed a warning to the Grand Vizier, who has replied to his Excellency confidentially that he must look upon the cession of the half of the Customs as definitively settled, and the Budget approved with two exceptions, viz., that the salaries of the subordinate functionaries called Mouavins shall be retained at the old figure, and that there shall be no increase in the number of the "Juges de Paix."

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

Inclosure 2 in No. 2.

The Christian Members of the Administrative Council of Crete to Consul Sandwith.

(Traduction.)

M. le Consul,

NOUS avons l'honneur de vous soumettre copie de l'exposé que nous avons envoyé récemment à la Sublime Porte, et de la requête que nous venons d'adresser à son Excellence le Gouverneur-Général de la Crète, relativement à la question du délaissement de la moitié des revenus de la Douane au Trésor Crétois, ainsi qu'au retard que le Gouvernement Central apporte à sanctionner le Budget de l'année financière courante voté par la dernière Assemblée.

Ainsi que vous le verrez par la lecture des documents ci-joints, le refus de la Sublime Porte de se conformer aux engagements nets et précis de la Convention de Chalépa et de la Charte Organique fait naître une situation qui non seulement met obstacle au fonctionnement régulier de la machine administrative, mais qui contribue aussi à entretenir l'inquiétude dans les esprits. En effet, l'attitude de la Porte ne saurait s'expliquer autrement que par une tendance à revenir sur les privilèges octroyés à l'île. Quant à nous, si cette attitude se prolonge, nous devrons renoncer à participer au gouvernement du pays.

Cette conduite de la Sublime Porte n'est-elle pas faite pour justifier les demandes formulées par la majorité de l'Assemblée Générale durant la dernière Session, et communiquées à vous, M. le Consul, à cette époque. Pour nous, gardiens fidèles des droits du peuple Crétois dont il nous a confié l'application, il est de notre devoir de nous refuser à prendre part au Gouvernement du pays pour le cas où il ne sera pas donné promptement une solution à la question dont il s'agit. Cette solution doit être conforme aux droits acquis et aux vœux légitimes de la Crète.

Nous avons tout lieu d'espérer, M. le Consul, que vous voudrez bien prendre en sérieuse considération les représentations adressées par nous à la Sublime Porte, et que vous nous accorderez dans cette nouvelle circonstance votre bienveillant appui pour prévenir les fâcheuses conséquences qui pourraient résulter de l'importante affaire que nous venons d'avoir l'honneur de vous exposer.

Agréez, &c.
(Suivent les signatures des 3 membres Chrétiens du Conseil Administratif.)

No. 3.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(*Received January* , 1882.)

E
(No. 1144.)

Constantinople, December 31, 1881.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul-General at Philippopoli on the subject of a correspondence which has taken place between the Sublime Porte and Aleko Pasha on the subject of the internal administration of Eastern Roumelia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 3.

Consul-General Jones to the Earl of Dufferin.

Philippopoli, October 10, 1881.

My Lord,

THE accompanying correspondence between the Ministers of the Porte and the Governor-General of this province has been sent by the latter (officiously) to the several Consulates here, with the apparent object of directing their attention to the efforts made from time to time by the Porte to extend its authority in Eastern Roumelia beyond what is recognized or justified by the Organic Statute.

The following are the heads of the correspondence in question:—

The Porte, on the initiative of the "Board of Indirect Contributions," appoints an official, Zuhdi Bey, to superintend the collection of customs, prevent importation of arms, &c., into Eastern Roumelia. The Governor-General, acting on the advice of his Councillors, regards the appointment as a violation of the autonomy of the province, and declines to recognize it.

In like manner, the Porte appoints a Railway Commissioner, Essad Bey, in the province, on the ground that the Eastern Roumelian railways, forming part of the general system of communication between the Empire and Europe, come under the rights of supervision reserved to the Porte by the Organic Statute.

The Governor-General opposes this measure on the plea that all appointments to posts in the province, with certain reservations, are, by the Organic Statute, to be made by the Governor-General, as representing the Sultan.

The Porte calls attention to, and complains of, certain political demonstrations which have been made in the province on the occasion (4th January) of the fête of the late Emperor of Russia, and requires that the delinquents—amongst others an officer of Roumelian militia, named Tsanoff—be condignly punished.

The Governor-General explains that by the provisions of the Organic Statute a degree of liberty is enjoyed here unknown in the other provinces of the Empire, and that it is out of his power to punish the said officer but through the proper authorities and with the consent of the Permanent Committee.

In the same letter the Chief Minister, Said Pasha, complains of the favour shown to the Christian population in the selection for public employment, which cannot be justified in all cases by their numerical superiority, as there are, undoubtedly, certain districts in which Mahommedans are in the majority. Likewise that certain Directors of Departments have been retained in their posts in defiance of the expressed disapproval of the Sultan.

We have no copy of Aleko Pasha's reply to this last charge. In justification of the preponderance of Christians in the service of the province, he pleads that they alone possess the linguistic and business capacity requisite for such employment.

As the Organic Statute has placed Eastern Roumelia under the political and military authority of the Sultan, the Minister of War requires the Governor-General to furnish him with a detailed monthly statement of the effective armed force of the province.

The Governor-General replies that the Organic Statute takes no cognizance of any correspondence between the Minister of War and the province, and declines on this account to comply with his wishes. But, as it recognizes the contingency that under certain circumstances the province may be required to aid the action of the Ottoman army, he agrees to furnish occasional statements of its effective armed force.

Saïd Pasha further warns him that, by his unjustified opposition, he "exposes himself to a grave responsibility," and requires him to fulfil "more loyally and sincerely his duty towards the Sultan and the province."

Aleko Pasha explains that the provisions of the Organic Statute reduce his authority in military matters to a mere shadow, and that the provincial army learns from these that it depends neither on the Sultan nor on his Representative, but on the Permanent Committee of the Provincial Assembly.

From this correspondence it will be seen how jealously Aleko Pasha and his advisers regard every movement at Constantinople which threatens directly or indirectly to compromise the autonomy of the province, as guaranteed by the provisions of the Organic Statute. It cannot, however, be said that they are equally circumspect when these are in opposition to their own views or interests, as, for instance, in the above case, where certain Directors are retained in their posts in the face of the Sultan's expressed disapprobation, and in the matter likewise which at present engages the public attention here—the excess of Russian officers serving in the Roumelian army—which, although expressly violating the provisions of the Organic Statute, does not encounter the same resistance which Roumelian patriotism opposes to Turkish encroachments.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY M. JONES.

P.S.—Two of the letters forming part of the accompanying collection, viz., No. 195, Saïd Pasha to the Governor-General, 13th December, 1880, and No. 105, the latter's reply to the same, 14th January, 1881, were forwarded by Mr. Stephen in his despatch to the Foreign Office No. 4 of the 28th January, 1881. I have not, however, thought it necessary on that account to withdraw them from the series.

H. M. J.

No. 4.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(*Received January* 9, 1882.)

(No. 515. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, December* 28, 1881.

AS the newspapers have asserted that the Turkish Government had protested against the introduction of the conscription into Bosnia, I inquired of Count Kalnoky whether such was the case.

He assured me that it was not, and that the Turkish Ambassador had only spoken to him about it in a general manner, and in a conciliatory tone inquiring whether it would not be possible to designate the recruits as gendarmes or zaptiehs intended for local duty only.

He had replied that these corps being already constituted this arrangement could not be made, but that the recruits not being attached to any particular corps of the general army they would not have to serve out of their province.

It is evident that this state of things could at any moment be changed by a scratch of the pen by the Minister of War.

I observed to Count Kalnoky that I had avoided any conversation on the subject with the Turkish Ambassador, for while I had no wish to appear to consider the Porte justified in any remonstrance it might think fit to make against the measure, I should find it difficult to argue that the enforcement of military service in Bosnia and the Herzegovina was strictly compatible with the Austrian Convention with Turkey.

Count Kalnoky admitted that he should himself be greatly embarrassed if he found himself forced to argue upon the strict rights of the case.

The fiction, he observed, under which by the Treaty of Berlin the acquisition of Bosnia was disguised as an occupation, which every one understood to be intended to be permanent, was full of inconvenience, which had not been lessened by the Convention of 1879.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 5.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(*Received January* 9.)

(No. 2. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, January* 5, 1882.

I HAVE asked Count Kalnoky whether he could tell me why Ali Nizami Pasha was prolonging his stay in Vienna.

His Excellency said that the Pasha's proceedings had been rather peculiar. He had arrived unannounced, and after being here five or six days had sent to say that he should not like to leave Vienna without having the honour of waiting on the Emperor and of being received by the Minister.

In the interviews which took place in consequence, the Pasha had confined himself to the expression of general complimentary and courteous messages on the part of the Sultan, which were answered in a similar tone.

Count Kalnoky said that he had endeavoured to inspire Ali Nizami with the conviction that Austria entertained none but the most friendly sentiments towards Turkey, but the only question which had been at all seriously discussed between them was that of the junction with the Servian railways. He hoped he had made some impression, and that the Pasha was endeavouring to induce his Government to abstain from raising farther difficulties.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 6.

Mr. Locock to Earl Granville.—(*Received January* 9, 1882.)

(No. 152.)
My Lord, *Belgrade, December* 30, 1881.

ON calling on the Minister of Finance three days ago I met the representative here of the Union General of Paris coming out of his house, and the Minister told me that they had been speaking of the loan which the Government required to enable it to carry out its intention of paying at once the compensations awarded by the Agrarian Commissions to the Ottoman land-owners in the ceded districts, according to the offer which it had made to the Porte. He regretted to say that the Government had been somewhat disappointed in its expectations with regard to raising the money, the Union General of Paris not having responded to the call with the alacrity which was at first shown, but that he was glad to be able to tell me that he thought he had just arranged the question with M. Beranger, its representative here. The rate of interest would, however, have to be 6½ per cent., instead of 6 per cent., as first named. On the other hand, the amount would not be quite so large as was previously thought of, since he had given orders that all those tenants to whom the Commissioners had not accorded the faculty of paying by instalments, and who therefore, by the terms of the Agrarian Law, ought already to have paid up in full, should, without any further delay, be called on by the authorities to do so, and in case of their refusing to comply with the order, that the money should be raised by a distress on their premises.

There is no hardship involved in this order of the Minister, inasmuch as the Commissioners have granted the faculty of paying by instalments in all cases where the tenants were not proved to be well able to pay in full.

I have, &c.
(Signed) SIDNEY LOCOCK.

No. 7.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 8.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, January* 9, 1882.

HER Majesty's Government have attentively considered the observations made to your Excellency by Assim Pasha, and reported in your despatch No. 972 of the 8th November, relative to the construction of fortifications by the Russian Government within a short distance of the town of Batoum, a proceeding which his Highness

maintained was contrary to the spirit of the Treaty of Berlin and of the Protocols of the Congress.

By Article LIX of that Treaty the Emperor of Russia undertook to convert Batoum into a free port essentially commercial. It will be seen from the discussions in Congress which resulted in that Article that the Earl of Beaconsfield, in accepting the declaration made by Prince Gortchacow on the 6th July, that Batoum should become a free port, spoke of it as the transformation of a disputed fortress into a commercial depôt for all nations; that subsequently Count Schouvaloff said that this declaration must have removed the last doubts that might have existed as to the possession of the port by Russia constituting a menace to any one; that it was only necessary to secure her commerce and communications with her territory in that part of the Black Sea, and could not be a menace to the Straits. Thereupon the Marquis of Salisbury accepted in principle the *status quo ante* for the Straits on the understanding that it was only to be a commercial port.

No exception was taken by the Russian Plenipotentiaries to this interpretation of their declarations, and on the 9th July Prince Gortchacow announced that they were authorized by the Emperor to state that His Majesty further proposed to make of Batoum a port essentially commercial.

The information in the possession of the Turkish Government as to the construction of fortifications at Batoum is confirmed by the Reports of Her Majesty's Consuls, but the question arises whether Russia, by the assurances to which I have referred, is excluded from the right of erecting any fortifications there. No definite assurances on this subject were either given or required at the Congress, and though the port may be essentially, or indeed exclusively, commercial, it does not, in the opinion of Her Majesty's Government, seem to follow that fortifications may not be erected for its defence.

It could hardly be contended that Russia, having created a great commercial emporium, was bound to leave it defenceless and at the mercy of Turkish cruizers should any conflict arise between the two countries, neither would it be to the interest of the nations who may trade there that this should be the case.

Her Majesty's Government think it probable that Russia did undertake that Batoum should not be converted into an arsenal as a basis for military operations, but there is at present no evidence that the fortifications go beyond what may be fairly necessary for the defence of an important commercial centre, and I have accordingly to request your Excellency to inform Assim Pasha, should he again revert to the subject, that, in the absence of more detailed information, Her Majesty's Government are hardly prepared to assert that there has been such a violation of Article LIX of the Treaty of Berlin as would justify the parties to that Treaty in addressing a representation to the Russian Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 8.

Earl Granville to Mr. Lascelles.

(No. 2.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, January 9, 1882.*

I TRANSMIT herewith a note from the Porte * which has been communicated to me by the Ottoman Ambassador, summarizing the principal grievances of the Turkish Government against the Bulgarian authorities.

The Memorandum is divided into several heads, and I have to request you to furnish me with any observations you may have to offer upon the various subjects with which it deals.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

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* See Part LXVIII, No. 49.

No. 9.

Earl Granville to Mr. Lascelles.

(No. 4.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, January 10, 1882.*

I HAVE had before me your despatch No. 169 of the 13th ultimo, inclosing copies of petitions presented to the Prince of Bulgaria and yourself by the Turkish proprietors of Kustendil, complaining of the proceedings of the Land Commission, and of the indifference with which His Highness' orders to restore them their arrears of rent have been treated by the Commissioners. I have to instruct you, in the event of your finding that these complaints are well founded, to remind the Bulgarian Government of the assurances on this subject contained in their note to you of the 6th August, and to point out the injustice of delaying an equitable settlement of the question, as well as the advantage which Bulgaria would gain by putting an end to the ill-feeling caused by the present unsatisfactory state of affairs.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 10.

Consul Sandwith to Earl Granville.—(Received January 11.)

(No. 1.)
My Lord, *Canea, Crete, January 2, 1882.*

PHOTIADES PASHA has just informed me that he has received telegraphic intelligence from the Grand Vizier that the long-promised Iradé ceding half the customs dues to the local administration has at last been issued.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

No. 11.

Consul Freeman to Earl Granville.—(Received January 11.)

(No. 1.)
My Lord, *Serajevo, January 5, 1882.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 16, Political, of the 22nd ultimo, regarding military conscription in these provinces, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that the antagonism to the measure seems to be on the increase in the Herzegovina, and I have been assured by persons who should be well-informed on the subject, that an armed rising is certain to take place in the spring in the districts of Nevesinje, Gacko, Stolac, Ljubinje and Trebinje, if the Austrians attempt to enforce the conscription. The inhabitants of the Herzegovina were only partially disarmed after the Austrian occupation of the country, and there is said to be no lack of either arms or ammunition in the districts above-mentioned. It appears also that a safe refuge in Montenegro has been assured for the wives and children of those who take up arms. There is no doubt that the resistance of the Crivoscians to the conscription for the Landwehr serves to encourage the Herzegovinians also to resist, and I fear the Austrian Government may meet with considerable difficulty in maintaining tranquillity. As yet, however, the garrison of the Herzegovina has not been strengthened.

The brigand and ex-insurgent leader, Stojan Kovačević, referred to in my despatches Nos. 12 and 14, Political, of the 6th September and the 22nd November of last year, does not appear to have met with a very warm reception from the Crivoscians, and I hear that he has now tendered his submission to the Austrian Government on condition of receiving an amnesty for his past misdeeds, which has not, however, been granted. I can hardly understand this proffered submission, if a rising in the Herzegovina is really imminent, as asserted by my informants, of a man likely to take a leading part in any insurrectional movement.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWD. B. FREEMAN.

No. 12.

Sir E. Thornton to Earl Granville.—(*Received January* 11.)

E
(No. 6. Confidential.)

My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, January 7*, 1882.

DURING a visit which I paid this morning to my Turkish colleague, I asked his Excellency whether he could tell me whether the Russian authorities were actually constructing fortifications at Batoum. He replied that they were certainly doing so, though not exactly within the town, but about four or five miles from it, where two lines of fortifications were being made.

His Excellency added that he had been instructed to draw the attention of the Russian Government to the matter, on the ground that the fortification of the town was an infraction of the LIXth Article of the Treaty of Berlin, and that he had spoken to M. de Giers upon the subject. M. de Giers had declared that the town was not being fortified, and that there was no intention whatever of fortifying it. Such fortifications as were being constructed were at a certain distance from the town, and that Turkey might as well protest against any fortifications being made on any part of the frontier as object to those near Batoum. M. de Giers assured the Turkish Ambassador that Russia had no intention of making war against Turkey, nor of fortifying Batoum itself, though he admitted that the fortifications now being constructed might be used for its protection. But M. de Giers had asserted that during the negotiation of the Treaty the Russian Plenipotentiaries had informed the Congress that it was the intention of His Imperial Majesty to cause the erection of these fortifications, and that it was after no objection had been raised to this intention that His Majesty had declared that Batoum should be a free port. I can find no notice of any such communication in the Protocols of the Congress.

Chakir Pasha observed, however, that although the present Russian Government might desire to be on friendly terms with the Turks, this might not be the case hereafter, and, in the event of future hostilities, the fortifications near Batoum would certainly be used as a base of operations.

My Turkish colleague did not himself seem to think that, according to the strict letter of the LIXth Article of the Treaty, it could be asserted that what the Russian military authorities were now doing could be held to be in contravention of that Article.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWD. THORNTON.

No. 13.

E *Mr. Ford to Earl Granville.*—(*Received January* 13, 1882.)
(No. 276.)

My Lord, *Athens, December* 30, 1881.

THE Post Office difficulty with Turkey is, unfortunately, only one of several small questions of an aggravating character which may be said to disturb at present that harmony of relations which it is desirable to see established between two neighbouring countries.

M. Coumoundouros has frequently spoken to me with regard to what he terms the refusal of the Turkish Government to carry out the stipulations of the XIIIth Article of the Convention of the 24th May concerning the nationality to be accorded to persons natives of the provinces lately ceded to Greece, but who are domiciled within the limits of Turkish dominion.

I am informed your Lordship has been instructed as to this affair by the Greek Chargé d'Affaires at London, to whom a despatch on the subject has been addressed by M. Coumoundouros on the 17th instant, and a copy of which M. Gennadius was instructed to communicate to your Lordship.

The Greek Government attach great importance to the question as a matter of principle, and it is one of small import to Turkey, inasmuch as the persons of Greek origin who might, under the Treaty clause, claim to be considered and treated as Greek subjects, would hardly, so I understand, exceed 1,000 in number.

M. Coumoundouros informs me that a new difficulty has arisen at a place called Parga, in Epirus (opposite the Island of Palo), where he has lately learnt that the Turkish authorities have notified, without reason, to the Greek Consul, who has been

resident there during a period of four years, that he will cease to be recognized any longer in that capacity.

In addition to the above-enumerated pending questions, there remains the case reported to your Lordship in my despatch No. 267 of the 14th instant respecting the Greek steamer which was refused an entrance on, as the Greek Government assert, no valid grounds, to the port of Prevesa. The settlement of this question may be said to rest on the general solution of the Post Office question, and has been partially arranged by a recent Act of the Turkish Government, to the effect that all ports in Turkey shall be free to Greek vessels, with the exception of those vessels carrying mail-bags.

There is the also unsettled question of the frontier line at Zarkos, and the continued presence of Turkish soldiers in certain portions of the territory virtually ceded to Greece by Turkey at such points as Gounitza, the village of Gurtchova (Krizobali), and the Kulé of Kavalik Derbend, on the Ægean Sea.

Another question was brought to my notice this morning. It appears that on the 26th instant a Greek courier on his way from Tricalla to Larissa was stopped by a Turkish patrol at Gounitza, and his mail seized. He was then conducted to Elassona, whence the last tidings that have reached Athens concerning him were received.

Also a Greek subject, on or about the same day, was detained at Gounitza, and after his revolver and some pieces of money he had in his possession had been abstracted from him he was conducted to a small place called Panari, or Perthori, to the south-west of Elassona. The Greek Government has as yet received no authentic details concerning these transactions, nor any justification for them on the part of the Turkish officials.

The general elections now taking place in Greece, and which will be completed on the 1st of the New Year, have disturbed the minds and engrossed the attention, to the exclusion of most other subjects, of the leading men of this country; and until they are over I see little prospect of any serious steps being taken with a view to settling them, or, indeed, of their being treated with that calm and impartial spirit so essential to a consideration of international affairs.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANCIS CLARE FORD.

No. 14.

E *Mr. Ford to Earl Granville.*—(*Received January* 13, 1882.)
(No. 277.)

My Lord, *Athens, December* 30, 1881.

I AM sorry to inform your Lordship that the difficulty existing between Turkey and Greece with respect to the postal arrangements between the two countries remains unsettled, and I fear no effectual steps will be taken to remedy it until the general elections, which take place next Sunday, are over.

On the 24th instant a notice was issued at the Postmaster-General's Office in Athens to the following effect: that the Post-office authorities at Constantinople having declined to transmit through their offices mails from Greece destined for certain localities, named below, of the interior of Turkey, as well as for the interior of Macedonia, the public is requested henceforward to transmit their letters to the places mentioned through their correspondents at Constantinople and Salonica. The mails which were sent some days ago to the interior of Turkey have been returned from Constantinople, and are now lying at the Post Office at Athens, and the letters can be claimed by the persons who forwarded them. The localities to which the letters were addressed were as follows:—Broussa, Ismid, Rodosto, Mesembria, Sinope, Œnoe, Saranta, Ecclesia, Cartamome, Therapia, Tocat, Kios, Attalia, and Mudania. The public is once more requested to write the addresses on all letters destined for the foreign post either in French or Italian.

In consequence of the measures taken by the Turkish Post Office officials, an order was issued by the Greek Government of a retaliatory character to the Postmaster-General at Athens, directing him to return unopened all the mail-bags that arrived from Constantinople at Athens on Sunday last, the 24th instant, and which had been forwarded thence through the Turkish Post Office, and not either through the French or Austrian post-offices established in that city. So the matter rests at present.

The continuance of this irritating question is most unfortunate. It not only produces ill-feeling in the relations existing between Turkey and Greece, but it also

causes serious inconvenience to the public of both countries, and especially to that portion of it engaged in financial and commercial affairs. It is to be hoped, should the present Ministry obtain a majority at the approaching elections, that a means of overcoming the Post Office difficulty will be arrived at. Should, however, the opposition party prove victorious, further complications of the question will probably ensue.

In conversing with the Prime Minister and his colleagues on the subject of the postal arrangements with Turkey, I do not fail to point out the importance to Greece of maintaining a conciliatory attitude towards Turkey in its dealings with that country; and I dwell on the fact that, inasmuch as Greece has recently become a considerable gainer at Turkey's expense, some allowance may reasonably be made for any feeling of irritation that may be supposed to exist on the part of a Power that has so lately been called upon to submit to a great territorial sacrifice; and that, moreover, with regard to this particular question of Post Offices, it was the Greek Government who confess that it was their Royal Commissioner at Larissa who closed the Turkish Post-office established in that city, without due reflection as to the consequences likely to result from such an act, and with a degree of precipitancy which the Greek Government have had subsequent reason to be sorry for.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANCIS CLARE FORD.

No. 15.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(*Received January* 13.)

(No. 1.)
My Lord, *Scutari, January* 3, 1882.

WITH reference to the extract from the "Cossovo Gazette" of the 23rd November last, inclosed in Mr. Blunt's despatch No. 151 of the 29th of that month, and communicated to me in your Lordship's despatch No. 42 of the 16th ultimo, I think it right to observe to your Lordship that, although there can be no doubt that wherever Dervish Pasha has appeared a species of tranquillity and order has been established, still the assertion of the "Gazette," that his Excellency has stamped out the evil of rebellion and sedition in Northern Albania by banishing a considerable number of the native intriguers and those who were at the head of the "Bands of Union" or "Albanian League," can never be accepted as a matter which has even been attempted by the Sultan's High Commissioner as long as Ali Pasha, of Gussinjé, and all those who were connected with the murder of Mehemet Ali Pasha at Jacova, remain unpunished, and continue to receive marks of favour from the Sultan.

The impression existing in Northern Albania is, that Dervish Pasha has been directed to collect all arrears of taxes and to enforce the military conscription, without too much damping the patriotic ardour and religious sentiments of the Mussulman populations, in order that they may be used, whenever needful, in opposing, either politically or militarily, the encroachments of the neighbouring States.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 16.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(*Received January* 13.)

(No. 3.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, January* 3, 1882.

MR. VICE-CONSUL BLAKENEY, in his despatch of the 17th ultimo, has informed your Lordship of the character of Moustafa Pronio, who has been charged by the local authorities with the duty of suppressing brigandage in Epirus. I considered it desirable to bring to the notice of the Minister for Foreign Affairs the evils which must ensue from the employment of such an agent, and his Excellency at once caused orders to be sent to the local authorities to abstain from making use of the services of Moustafa Pronio.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 17.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(*Received January* 15, 1·10 P.M.)

(No. 10.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, January* 15, 1882, 11·30 A.M.

WITH reference to Consul Sandwith's despatch No. 58 of the 27th ultimo, complaining of taxes for road-making and on trade licenses which the Cretan authorities are disposed to levy upon foreigners, an identic note has been drawn up by the Italian and French Ambassadors, to which I would ask permission to subscribe, as it is desirable some protest should be made against this breach of the Capitulations.

No. 18.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(*Received January* 15, 9 P.M.)

(No. 11.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, January* 15, 1882, 3·15 P.M.

A COMMISSION has been nominated for reorganizing the Turkish gendarmerie, it is said on the German model. It is composed of Gescher, the German legal adviser of the Foreign Office, Wettendorf, the German Under-Secretary of the Treasury, and Bertram, a German Custom-house official. General Baker Pasha is to be retained in the service, but it is doubtful whether the other English officers, whose contracts expired yesterday, will be kept on.

No. 19.

Mr. Lascelles to Earl Granville.—(*Received January* 16, 1882.)

E
(No. 173.)
My Lord, *Sophia, December* 23, 1881.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's despatches Nos. 77 and 78 of the 18th and 24th ultimo, instructing me to furnish your Lordship with my observations upon various complaints which have been made by the Sublime Porte with regard to the proceedings of the Bulgarian authorities.

The first of these despatches refers to the obstacles raised by the Bulgarian Government to the establishment of a Special Bureau at Constantinople as the channel of communication between the Sublime Porte and Bulgaria, and mentions in its inclosures certain acts of vexation and spoliation committed by the Bulgarian authorities. The second despatch refers to the condition of the Bulgarian fortresses.

In my despatch No. 144 of the 21st September I had the honour to report that M. Voulcovitch had declined to enter into any discussion with Nihad Pasha on any question which his Excellency was not duly authorized to treat, and as the establishment of a Bureau for the Privileged Provinces, which formed the subject of my despatches Nos. 24, 132, and 133 of the 24th March and 8th and 10th August last, resulted in the cessation of all official communication between the Sublime Porte and the Bulgarian Agency at Constantinople, I was not astonished when M. Voulcovitch, whose attention I have called to the complaints contained in Assim Pasha's despatch of the 18th October, referred to the want of means of communication as an insuperable obstacle to any settlement of the questions pending between the two Governments. The questions of Turkish commercial agents in Bulgaria might, he said, be easily settled if any means of official communication existed, and indeed, with regard to the latter, the Bulgarian Government had quite as good ground of complaint as the Porte.

With regard to the mosque of Yali Djamissi at Widdin, M. Voulcovitch said that it had suffered so much during the war that a large sum would be required to make it fit to be used as a place of worship.

It had been made use of in its present state as a place for keeping arms, and as there were still a great number of mosques in use at Widdin, he did not consider that the Turks had much to complain of.

M. Voulcovitch argued that the Bulgarian authorities were perfectly justified in turning the mosque of Ak Baba at Tirnova into a church. This building had been a church before the Turkish invasion. It was the most interesting historical monument

in Bulgaria, and contained inscriptions of the time of the Bulgarian Kings. The building had only been restored to its original purpose, and he presumed that the same would be the case with the mosque of St. Sophia, if Constantinople should ever fall into the hands of a Christian Power.

With regard to the fortresses, M. Voulcovitch said that although they had not been razed, they were allowed to go to ruin, and that the masonry was gradually disappearing, as it was allowed to be taken away for building purposes. The fortress of Levan-Tabia was used as an arsenal, and arms and ammunition were kept there. He was not aware whether there were any Krupp guns, and promised to make inquiries on this point, as also with regard to the barracks for 400 men; but he could assure me that nothing had been done to place the fortress in a state of efficiency.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANK C. LASCELLES.

No. 20.

E (No. 174.) *Mr. Lascelles to Earl Granville.*—(*Received January* 16, 1882.)

My Lord, *Sophia, December* 26, 1881.

IN obedience with the instructions contained in your Lordship's despatch No. 80 of the 2nd instant, I have the honour to submit the following observations on the working of the Turco-Bulgarian Lands Commission.

In conformity with Article XII of the Treaty of Berlin, the Porte appointed Nihad Pasha and Fazil Bey as Turkish members of the Commission. Those gentlemen arrived at Sophia in the month of January 1880, and after having presented themselves to the Prince of Bulgaria and the Minister for Foreign Affairs, requested that the Bulgarian Commissioners might be at once appointed and the Commission opened. The Commission, however, did not hold its first meeting until the 15th April, when MM. Bournoff and Zanoff were selected as Bulgarian Commissioners. The second Bulgarian Commissioner has frequently been changed, M. Bournoff always remaining First Commissioner.

The Ottoman Commissioners complain that it has been the constant endeavour of the Bulgarians to prevent, as far as possible, all discussion by raising frivolous pretexts, and that they have hitherto succeeded in preventing any arrangements being come to. The Commission decided that they should first settle the question of the property of the State before entering upon the more complicated question of the vacoufs. To the demand of the Ottoman Commissioners that the property belonging to the Imperial Government should be restored, the Bulgarians replied that they were not aware what property was referred to, because the houses and establishments which belonged to it as Sovereign cannot be considered the property of the Sublime Porte, the sovereignty, and with it the property, having passed from the Sultan to the Prince of Bulgaria. If, however, the Sublime Porte possesses any private property, such property will be restored to it after due verification of the title-deeds. But the examination of the title-deeds may give rise to controversy, and the Bulgarian Commissioners maintain that, in such a case, the Bulgarian Tribunals would alone be competent to decide the question. The Ottoman Commissioners maintain that this claim of the Bulgarians implies the possibility of submitting to the Bulgarian Tribunals questions which ought to be settled by the Commission, and is therefore inadmissible, as being contrary to the Treaty of Berlin.

To the remonstrances made by the First Ottoman Commissioner to the Bulgarian Government with regard to the destruction of certain mosques and to the transformation of others into public offices, prisons, &c., the Bulgarians alleged reasons of public utility. In Sophia itself a large mosque has been converted into a public library and printing office, another in the Court of the Prince's Palace has been demolished, and the Tribunal of First Instance has been established in an old Turkish school.

The Bulgarian Commissioners argue that the cause of the delay which has taken place, and of the negative result of the labours of the Commission, is the obstinacy of the Turks in refusing to admit that the State property which was held, not as private property, but as the property of the Sovereign, such as the residences of the Governors and Sub-Governors, the prisons, Tribunals, &c., should not be restored. Such property, say the Bulgarians, passed into the hands of the Prince when the sovereignty of the country was transferred from the Sultan to His Highness. The buildings, moreover, had been constructed, not with funds belonging to the Imperial Treasury,

but with the revenues of the Vilayet of the Danube, which has now become the Principality of Bulgaria. They profess their readiness to restore any property which the Sublime Porte may have possessed as a private person, and they maintain that it is only to that class of property that Article XII of the Treaty of Berlin refers, and that until the Turks admit the correctness of this interpretation of the Article, it is hopeless to expect a solution of the question.

Each party, therefore, throws upon the other the blame for the delay which has occurred, and the result of which has been that the question of the property of the State and the vacoufs is exactly in the same position in which the Commission found it nearly two years ago, no decision having been come to with regard to the first, and the second not having even been brought forward for discussion.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANK C. LASCELLES.

No. 21.

E (No. 178.) *Mr. Lascelles to Earl Granville.*—(*Received January* 16, 1882.)

My Lord, *Sophia, December* 29, 1881.

I HAVE not failed to call the attention of M. Voulcovitch to the petition from the Turkish inhabitants of Kustendil which was inclosed in my despatch No. 169 of the 13th instant.

His Excellency said that some delay occurred in consequence of the Mufti of Sophia not being able to take his place on the Commission until after the end of the month of Ramazan. Since that time the Commission had been steadily at work, and had visited a large portion of the district upon which they had to report. There were, however, still many places to be visited before the Commission could conclude its labours, and a considerable time would still be required before its Report could be drawn up.

I told M. Voulcovitch that it appeared to me that, as the object of the Commission was to do justice to the Turkish proprietors, it would have been better if measures had been taken to remedy the grievances in the districts which the Commission had already visited, instead of waiting until all the districts had been visited, and the fact that nothing had as yet been done to give satisfaction to the Turks would be regarded by them as a failure on the part of the Prince to give effect to the promises which he had made.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANK C. LASCELLES.

No. 22.

E (No. 16.) *Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.*—(*Received January* 16.)

My Lord, *Vienna, January* 13, 1882.

I HAVE asked Count Kalnoky whether he had had any recent communication from the Greek Government on the subject of the question of the post-offices.

He said that the Greek Minister had spoken to him about it, but he was himself entirely opposed to the system which had sprung up of attempting to make a European question of every difficulty that arose between the Porte and another Government.

Turkey and Greece were independent countries, and might be left to settle their own small disagreements, as was done elsewhere.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 23.

E *Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received January 16.)*

(No. 17.)

My Lord, *Vienna, January 13, 1882.*

MR. CONSUL FREEMAN has informed your Lordship that some apprehensions are entertained in the Herzegovina of an armed rising occurring in the spring, but the Government are taking measures of precaution which are expected to prove sufficient to prevent an attempt at disturbance.

It is rather a striking circumstance that those who are most active in stimulating a movement should be the inhabitants of districts without the Austrian limits, and which, by the Treaty of Berlin, were incorporated with Montenegro, though, as I am assured, they have not hitherto practically submitted to the authority of the Prince.

Those who had watched the commencement of the insurrection in the Herzegovina of 1875 were aware that it did not originate with the populations suffering under Turkish maladministration, but that its nucleus lay in those districts where neither the zaptieh nor the Turkish tax-gatherer ever ventured, and they appear to be acting now as they then did.

There can be no doubt that the introduction of the conscription has caused intense dissatisfaction in the Herzegovina, which the insurrection of the Crivoscies still further stimulates, but the circumstances which favoured the movement against the Turks no longer exist; for the insurgents could not now count upon countenance from Montenegro, nor upon the open sympathy which was shown for them by the Austrian authorities in Dalmatia. A serious movement is not, therefore, in my opinion, to be apprehended.

Troops continue to be dispatched to Southern Dalmatia, but active measures against the Crivoscies will probably not be attempted till the spring, when determined measures will be taken to crush the resistance of the tribe, which, though numerically insignificant, are favoured by inaccessible positions very difficult for troops to act in.

General Rodich, before laying down his command as Governor of Dalmatia, self-sufficiently declared that he had successfully established the conscription in the Bocche, but it had been done merely upon paper, and his successor and son-in-law, General Jovanovics, has now the task of carrying it into practical execution.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 24.

E *Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.*

(No. 23.)

My Lord, *Foreign Office, January 16, 1882.*

MUSURUS PASHA has communicated to me the despatch, and its inclosures, from the Porte of which I transmit copies herewith.* They refer to the difficulties thrown in the way of the Mussulman emigrants from Bulgaria who seek to settle the affairs relating to their real property in that Principality.

A similar communication has, no doubt, been made by the Turkish Government to the other Great Powers, and I should be glad if your Excellency could ascertain, through their Representatives at Constantinople, the view taken by them of the complaints of the Porte.

The suggestion is made by the Turkish Government that the term of three years within which the emigrants must settle their affairs should be extended, but there is no stipulation in the Treaty of Berlin placing such a limit on the time for the settlement of matters regarding the property of Mussulman emigrants.

The Turco-Bulgarian Commission instituted under Article XII had only to deal with State and vacouf property, and was to settle, in the course of two years, questions relative to their management and the interests therein of private individuals.

I have forwarded a copy of Musurus Pasha's communication to Mr. Lascelles for his observations.

I am, &c.

(Signed) GRANVILLE.

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* See Part LXVIII, No. 48.

No. 25.

E *Earl Granville to Lord Ampthill.*

(No. 13. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Foreign Office, January 16, 1882.*

I HAVE received a visit from Count Herbert Bismarck, who, after repeating some courteous expressions of the Chancellor's, and his wish that his son should convey to me, personally and confidentially, his views on Egypt and the East, stated to me, almost in similar terms to those which your Excellency used, what had passed between the Prince and the Turkish Envoys. He dwelt particularly on the Prince having told them that he wished to be at peace with all his neighbours, especially the French; that the Germans, if they were attacked, would defend themselves, but that, as long as the French behaved in the satisfactory manner they were doing as regards Germany, the relations would remain good.

The Chancellor had, he said, stated to the Envoys what he believed the policy of the British Government to be with regard to Turkey and Egypt, the maintenance of the Ottoman Empire, and of the *status quo* in Egypt, without any wish for the occupation of the country either alone or in conjunction with France; and have said that this was the policy of Germany, whose wish was to maintain things in Egypt as they are; but that, if disorders occurred, he was of opinion that Turkish intervention would be the most desirable.

The Chancellor was, he observed, of opinion that it was not desirable to press for reforms in Turkey; that it was the interest of England, as of Germany, to keep the Sultan strong; that pressure would not obtain any result, while it irritated and weakened the Sultan; and that it was better to give him time to initiate such reforms as he could introduce without weakening his authority.

I told Count Bismarck that I had heard from your Excellency a similar statement of the Chancellor's views, and that I was glad to hear them through the channel of his son. I said that it appeared to me that his Highness had correctly appreciated the policy of Her Majesty's Government both in Turkey and in Egypt. With regard to pressure on the Porte, there was agreement and disagreement between us. I had always thought that pressure ought not to be isolated, for as long as the Porte could play one country against another it would always recur to its habit of doing so. Without any pressure I doubted the Turks making any reforms at all. The Prince, I said, feared these reforms might weaken the Sultan; but our fear was that, unless the wretched administration of the provinces were reformed, the whole Empire must fall to pieces. We had, I observed, announced our policy to the country and to the world to consist in an endeavour to carry out the conditions of the Treaty of Berlin, and it would be impossible for us to change that policy. But I agreed that it was a question of degree and of opportunity. I had acted in this sense as soon as the Greek question had been settled, when I had made, directly and indirectly, to the Sultan the suggestion that he should initiate measures himself and avoid all appearance of acting under the insistance which Treaty rights gave the Powers the right to exercise.

With regard to Armenia, I said that, instead of urging large and cut and dried reforms at once, or the appointment of a Christian Governor, we had limited ourselves, as a preliminary, to the appointment of some Mussulman Commissioner of high character and position with necessary powers; that three months ago the Sultan formally promised Lord Dufferin that this appointment should be made, and courteously repeated that assurance, but that as soon as the Envoys had left Berlin he entirely retracted his word, with vague assurances as to what he should do at some future time. I believed, I said, that one word from Germany, in unison with us on this matter, would have settled the question, and would have been the means of greatly strengthening the authority of the Sultan in those parts.

With regard to Egypt, I observed that we sincerely desired the *status quo*. We had no desire, as the Chancellor had stated to the Envoys, either to occupy it ourselves or to have a joint occupation. In case of disorders all the alternatives were bad. Without committing myself to any formal opinion, I personally was inclined to believe with the Chancellor, that Turkish intervention might be the least evil of the several alternatives, but still the evil was great. The Turks were disliked by the Egyptians; it would be cruel to place so flourishing a country as it now was under the direct influence of the Turks, and once there it would be no easy matter to get them to move away.

Count Bismarck strongly pressed his father's views as to its being the interest of this country to put forward a weak country like Turkey, which could do us no harm,

and would not excite the jealousy of other Powers. The Turks were, he remarked, the right people to control the Bosphorus and the Suez Canal. If disorders arose in Egypt, if any European nations interfered, it was certain that Austria and Italy would immediately make demonstrations; while France would not like us to call in the Turks, though resistance on her part would be impossible. He added that the Chancellor thought that, if disorders actually recurred, it was desirable that some concert among the Powers should be arranged.

I replied that we had no jealousy of the other Powers—only a practical objection; that the matter was difficult enough with regard to the joint action of two Powers, and would be almost impracticable with all the Powers, with the possible addition of some others, such as the Greeks, who have large interests in Egypt.

I took the opportunity of explaining that the identic note which we had adopted on the suggestion of M. Gambetta was not intended to change the policy in Egypt, described in my despatch No. 216 of the 4th November last to Sir E. Malet, but to strengthen the Khedive and his Government, the Khedive having been represented to us as being most dispirited, and seeing everything in black.

The conversation ended with some expressions of courteous satisfaction on this free exchange of views, and I said I would carefully weigh all that had been put forward by the Chancellor.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 26.

Earl Granville to Mr. Lascelles.

E
(No. 5.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, January* 16, 1882.

I TRANSMIT herewith copies of a despatch, and its inclosures, from the Porte, which has been communicated to me by Musurus Pasha.* It refers to the difficulties thrown in the way of the Mussulman emigrants from Bulgaria who seek to settle the affairs relating to their real property in that Principality; and I have to request that you will furnish me with any observations you may have to offer with regard to the representations made in the inclosed papers.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 27.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(*Received January* 18.)

(No. 12.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, January* 10, 1882.

ALI NIZAMI PASHA and Reschid Bey returned here the day before yesterday, having accomplished the mission on which they had been sent by the Sultan to His Majesty the German Emperor.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 28.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(*Received January* 18.)

(No. 15.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, January* 11, 1882.

MR. VICE-CONSUL BLAKENEY forwarded to your Lordship on the 15th of last October copies of two despatches from Mr. Kypriotis, giving an unsatisfactory account of the state of his Vice-Consular district. I deemed it advisable to communicate the substance of Mr. Kypriotis' Reports to the Sublime Porte in the form of a *pro-memoriâ*. I have now the honour to inclose a copy of the reply I have received, by which your Lordship will observe that the Sublime Porte deny that the condition of the Janina district

* See Part LXVIII, No. 48.

was as grave as reported by Mr. Kypriotis, and states that, owing to the activity of the authorities, the vilayet has been almost entirely freed from acts of brigandage.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 28.

Note Verbale.

LA plupart des méfaits qu'on affirme avoir été commis dans le Vilayet de Janina sont ignorés par les autorités locales. Le récit de quelques autres a besoin de rectification.

Phakanos, capturé un moment par les brigands, a été relâché dans la suite. Le nommé Christopoulo, qui servait de guide à la bande, a été arrêté. Apostolidis, chef des bandits qui avaient enlevé Phakanos, n'a pu se tenir plus longtemps sur le territoire Ottoman, où il était poursuivi sans relâche, et a dû se rendre, enfin, avec toute sa bande et sa famille, aux autorités Helléniques de Trikala.

Les bandits qui ont attaqué et saccagé la maison de Christo, à Vanissa, appartiennent à la bande de Stourka. Quelques-uns d'entre eux sont tombés déjà entre les mains de l'autorité, qui les a déférés à la cour-martiale.

Les chefs de bande Davli et Kerassovitis, ayant été serrés de près par les troupes lancées à leur poursuite, ont dû passer successivement la frontière avec tous leurs acolytes et se rendre à discrétion aux autorités Helléniques. D'après des informations dignes de foi, ces malfaiteurs sont occupés en ce moment à acheter des immeubles à Tirnovo, où ils comptent s'installer.

Ainsi, grâce aux mesures les plus énergiques adoptées par les autorités Impériales, le vilayet a été presque entièrement purgé de la présence des malfaiteurs, provenant pour la plupart du territoire voisin. Une seule bande, celle de Stourka, ne s'est pas rendue encore; mais vivement poursuivie par les troupes Ottomanes, elle ne tardera pas à avoir le sort des autres bandes.

No. 29.

Mr. Ford to Earl Granville.—(*Received January* 18.)

E
(No. 8.)
My Lord, *Athens, January* 11, 1882.

IN acknowledging receipt of your Lordship's despatch No. 178 of the 19th ultimo, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that the suggestion made by the Turkish Ambassador in London to the effect that, with a view to a settlement of the question that has unfortunately arisen between Turkey and Greece with regard to their postal communications, the Greek Government might consent to permit the continuance of the Turkish post-office at Larissa during the three years allowed by the Treaty to the Mussulmans for the enjoyment of certain exemptions, had already occurred to me some time ago, and I mentioned it to M. Coumoundouros, but his Excellency thought it would be impossible to reopen the question on that basis.

This took place before the elections, and I could well understand his reasons for not wishing to countenance such a scheme.

Shortly afterwards, M. Coumoundouros told me, as I had the honour to report to your Lordship in my despatch No. 272 of the 16th ultimo, that he had proposed to the Turkish Chargé d'Affaires at Athens the appointment provisionally of a Turkish official to the Larissa post-office, to whom the special duty should be assigned of supervising and superintending the Turkish correspondence. Although some time has elapsed since he made the proposition, no reply to it has been as yet received from the Turkish Government, and so the matter rests at present.

M. Hatzopoulos, the Royal Commissioner in Thessaly, has just arrived at Athens to spend the Greek New Year fêtes with his family. He called upon me to-day and gave me an entirely new version of the occurrences which resulted in the post-office difficulties as they took place at Larissa, and he denies having acted in a précipitate or discourteous manner in the part he took with regard to the closing of the Turkish post-offices in that town.

M. Hatzopoulos stated to me that on receiving his appointment of Royal Commissioner for Thessaly he took up his residence at Larissa at the end of the month of September last. He there found the Turkish telegraph and post-office officials installed

in the same dwelling, and shortly after his arrival the telegraph establishment was handed over to the Greek Government. In the lower part of the house were a couple of rooms, one of which was occupied by the Turkish post-office official, who happened to be an Armenian, and in the adjoining room M. Hatzopoulos placed the Greek post-office. The mail service runs between Janina, Larissa, and Volo, from which latter place the bags used to be dispatched once a-week by steamer to Constantinople.

M. Hatzopoulos informed the official charged with the Turkish mails, by means of the Mayor of the town, that he would be required to close the Turkish post-office. Thereupon the latter telegraphed to Janina (and not to Constantinople) for instructions, and was directed by his official chief, who resided at Janina, to remain where he was.

A few days subsequently the mails from Janina arrived at Larissa, and the Armenian official, acting, apparently, on his own judgment, took the mail-bags at once into the adjoining room and gave them up to the Greek post-office officials, saying (so M. Hatzopoulos informed me) that it was the most natural thing in the world that they should be so given up.

The Armenian himself took the oath of allegiance to Greece, and expressed his desire to be employed in the Greek post-office. As, however, his services were not required, he took his departure for Janina.

M. Hatzopoulos informed me further that he was greatly surprised when he heard of the difficulties that had arisen on the subject.

On my inquiring of him whether any dissatisfaction was felt by the Turks residing at Larissa (who number about 6,000) at the closing of the post-office as a Turkish establishment, he replied that, on the contrary, they were all very much pleased, and that they are delighted with the increased postal facilities that have been afforded to them since the Greeks are in possession of the town, and that, whereas under Turkish rule there was only one post dispatched to Volo each week, there are now three posts per week, and that there is nearly every day a mail-steamer leaving the port of Volo.

I am in hopes, now that M. Hatzopoulos is at Athens, some serious steps will be taken to settle the tiresome question of postal arrangements between Turkey and Greece.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANCIS CLARE FORD.

No. 30.

Earl Granville to Lord Lyons.

E
(No. 79.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, January* 19, 1882.

THE French Ambassador mentioned to me this afternoon the numerous complaints made by the Greek Government against the Porte.

I said that I was inclined to agree in the opinion expressed by Count Kalnoky, that Europe was not bound to interfere and to exercise a duty of police in all these minor questions. There were some no doubt, such as that of the Greek frontier, which regarded the Powers who had made the arrangement. But with respect to some others, it was better that Turkey and Greece should endeavour to come to a direct understanding. I added that we should always be ready to assist in that which will promote harmonious action between the two Governments.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 31.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received January 20.)

(No. 15.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, January* 19, 1882.

FOLLOWING list of German officers and officials required by Sultan:—One for organizing Commissariat, two for military law, one for staff, and one for artillery, cavalry, and infantry respectively; an Under-Secretary and a Professor for Minister of Public Works; same for Minister of Commerce; an officer to organize gendarmerie; an officer, an Under-Secretary, and a Councillor for Military School.

No. 32.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received January 20).

(No. 19.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, January* 19, 1882.

THE Sultan has issued an Iradé ordering the contracts of the British gendarmerie officers to be renewed for three months, and the Prime Minister informs me that this may be regarded as a hopeful sign with reference to continuance of these gentlemen in the Ottoman service.

No. 33.

Earl Granville to Count Károlyi.

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Foreign Office, January* 20, 1882.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of the Memorandum which your Excellency has been good enough to communicate to me, containing a report of a conversation between Count Kalnoky and the Greek Minister at Vienna on the subject of the complaints recently made by the Greek Government to the Powers respecting the closing of the Greek post-offices in Turkey, and other grievances arising out of the action of the Porte since the conclusion of the Convention of July 2, 1881.

Her Majesty's Government concur in the view expressed by Count Kalnoky, that it would be advisable that the Greek and Turkish Governments should endeavour to settle between themselves, without appeals to the Powers, minor controversies, the direct discussion of which, in a conciliatory spirit, might be most likely to lead to a satisfactory settlement. They agree with his Excellency in the opinion that all the Powers would willingly contribute their share to promote the success of such efforts, which would unquestionably be supported by Her Majesty's Representatives at Constantinople and at Athens, who would always be ready to help, whenever an opportunity should occur, to produce harmonious action between the Governments of the two countries.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 34.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received January 22, 6 P.M.)

(No. 6.)
(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, January* 22, 1882.

THE tone prevailing in Montenegrin Government circles is that the insurrection in the Herzegovina is most serious, and is secretly encouraged by the Porte; but this latter assertion must be accepted *cum grano*.

The most important concentration of insurgents is said to exist in the mountains between Mostar and the Montenegrin frontier, and to number 2,000 men, of whom 750 are Mahommedan and the remainder of the Orthodox faith.

No. 35.

Consul St. John to Earl Granville.—(Received January 23.)

(No. 1.)
My Lord, *Ragusa, January* 12, 1882.

NO information of any importance, further than that the Crivosciences still maintain a defiant attitude, and refuse to submit to the new Military Law, has reached Ragusa from the disturbed district in the Bocche di Cattaro. The question, indeed, has of late ceased to cause much interest, as public attention is more engaged by the aspect of affairs in Bosnia and the Herzegovina, where the proposed conscription is calculated to give far more trouble; but the massacre and subsequent horrible mutilation of four gendarmes, as described to me by an eye-witness, have caused the greatest indignation, and compelled the Government to adopt more effective measures for the re-establishment of order and public security in that locality.

With the view to obtaining information, I yesterday undertook a journey to

Cattaro, where I found several Austrian iron-clads dispersed in the Bocche, and a steamer landing a battalion of chasseurs. A regiment of infantry arrived here this morning with General Jovanovich, the new Governor of Dalmatia, who, it is said, will establish his head-quarters at Ragusa. Another regiment is on its way from Pesth, and more are talked of as likely to come.

It is evident now that matters will come to a head so soon as the season is sufficiently advanced for military operations in the mountain districts.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. ST. JOHN.

No. 36.

Consul Freeman to Earl Granville.—(*Received January* 23.)

(No. 3.)
My Lord, *Serajevo, January* 14, 1882.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 2, Political, of the 13th instant, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that great uneasiness has been felt here during the past two nights by the authorities and the Austrian inhabitants in consequence of a report that an attack on the town from insurgents, combined with a rising of the native population, was imminent. Detachments of infantry and even artillery were sent to occupy commanding positions on the surrounding hills, and all the troops were kept under arms throughout the night. Events have not, however, verified the report nor justified so much anxiety. Whence the Government obtained its information I cannot even conjecture, and my own opinion is that it was imposed on by some malicious person. I am convinced that no rising is to be apprehended in this town, and it is hardly conceivable that insurgent bands of sufficient strength or audacity to make an attack on the place can have been organized in this neighbourhood without the knowledge of the authorities.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDW. B. FREEMAN.

No. 37.

Consul Faber to Earl Granville.—(*Received January* 23.)

(No. 1.)
My Lord, *Fiume, January* 18, 1882.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that the opinion is generally entertained here, and, indeed, even the papers openly discuss the subject, that the enforcement of the enlistment of the Crivoscie mountaineers is but the prelude to a much more extended operation, and merely serves as a pretext to collect together in those parts a sufficient number of troops for carrying out a forward march to Salonica in the spring.

I heard it repeatedly stated in Dalmatia and the Bocche di Cattaro, in October 1879, that fighting would again break out in two years' time ("dass es in zwei Jahren wieder losgehen würde"), and this is now being fully borne out.

All my information agrees in the fact that a forward movement is contemplated; it is not information of a positive character which I can cite with authority, but yet I think I am justified in giving it for what it may be worth.

I may further mention that a section of the Military Survey Department, engaged during last summer on a survey in the Herzegovina, is established here for the winter, to work out their charts, and they are working day and night, and with a double staff, to complete the work as soon as possible.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEO. L. FABER.

No. 38.

Mr. Phipps to Sir H. Elliot.—(*Received at the Foreign Office, January* 23.)

(No. 2.)
Sir, *Buda-Pesth, January* 14, 1882.

THE "Correspondance de Pesth," a lithographed sheet circulated to subscribers in this capital, states that it learns from its Belgrade correspondent that M. Matanovics, a Slav agitator, has just completed the organization of an armed band destined to serve in concert with the insurgents in Crivoscie. It adds that this individual has been received with much distinction by the Russian Representative at Belgrade, and that the Panslavist Committees (whose movements in Servia are, it is asserted, directed by M. Aksakoff at Moscow) had established regular head-quarters at Belgrade.

I attach no sort of importance to any statements made by the "Correspondance de Pesth;" it is a most inferior production in point of literary composition, and its so-called "correspondances" are almost invariably mere incomplete "réchauffées" of paragraphs which have appeared a day or two previously in Vienna or other journals, served up with inane and misleading observations drawn up by its editor. As, however, I have not observed the intelligence above cited in any other newspaper, I think it worth bringing to your Excellency's notice.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. C. H. PHIPPS.

No. 39.

Mr. Phipps to Sir H. Elliot.—(*Received at the Foreign Office, January* 23.)

(No. 3. Confidential.)
Sir, *Buda-Pesth, January* 17, 1882.

A FEELING of dejection prevails here at the aspect of affairs in the occupied provinces and in Dalmatia. The optimist views which but a few days ago were predominant, as to the facility with which the disorders in the Bocche might be quelled by the earlier dispatch of the customary spring reliefs to the regiments stationed there, have given place to a conviction that farther sacrifices will be entailed on the already overtaxed population of the kingdom.

Hardly a week ago an influential member of the Delegations, who is in constant intercourse with the members of the Government, stated that the maximum of the outlay likely to be necessary, would consist in a monthly expenditure of 300,000 florins, in order to keep the reliefs in question on the seat of the outbreak, while to-day the approaching mobilization of at least 20,000 men, and the voting of a maximum credit of a sum of 10,000,000 florins at the coming session of the Delegations, is declared by the well-informed "Buda Correspondenz" to be decided upon.

The rapid transportation of the so-called malcontents in the Crivoscie of a few weeks ago into "insurgents in Dalmatia," as they are now termed, is by the Hungarian press universally attributed to the weak and neglectful administrative action of the Austrian officials in that province, and to the inert policy of Baron Rodich. The "Pester Lloyd," usually a thick and thin supporter of Government, inquired a few days ago whether there could be any more bitter satire on the so designated "Eastern mission" of the Monarchy than the fact that Austria had not hitherto been able to obtain the mastery over the Crivosciens. Oblivious, for the moment, of the ill-nature exhibited so persistently against Great Britain by the eminent writers in that journal, it observes that "England, which is separated from its African Colonies by an ocean, found from the day to the morrow ways and means to maintain its dominion over the revolted districts in that part of the globe, while Austria on the other hand, after dozens of years of mighty efforts, is not in a position to finish with its Zulus in Dalmatia, and yet," it adds, "we pretend to effect a policy such as England carries out."

There is little doubt, however, that during the last two days the state of affairs both in Dalmatia and the Herzegovina has been wilfully exaggerated, especially in the Hungarian press, with a view of convincing the public here of the necessity of these extensive preparations, and of a session of the Delegations. Count Andrássy, who conversed with me on the subject to-day, said that in his opinion it was impolitic and unnecessary to call together the Delegations, and to lead public opinion in Europe to

the belief that serious complications were at hand. He himself was convinced that there were merely local disorders to suppress. Alarmist intelligence such as had been on this occasion intentionally propagated was, the Count observed, only believed by a few people at first, afterwards by the general public, until at last credit is finally attached to it by the very persons by whom it has been concocted. He considers that the dispatch of troops in any numbers to the seat of the disorder is unnecessary, and would have preferred an extensive reinforcement of the gendarmerie, and, if possible, the enrolment of local zaptichs, who, under efficient Austrian organization could, he believes, be depended upon.

Count Andrássy attaches no sort of credit to any rumours as to complicity on the part of the Russian, or any other Government, in the movement which undoubtedly, owing to local causes, is in connection with the acts of violence which have occurred in the Herzegovina.

The leading paragraph in this evening's issue of the "Pester Lloyd" has, however, apparently been carefully drawn up with a view of calming the excessive feeling of uneasiness of which evidence was given in the Bourse yesterday, both in this capital and at Vienna. It declares, little in accordance with its recent tone, that up to the moment of writing nothing had occurred in the Herzegovina which could be dignified by the name of a revolutionary outbreak, that the rumours as to disorders in connection with the recruitment were unfounded, inasmuch as no steps to carry it out had as yet even been begun. What could be said was that evidences of a lively and extending agitation did exist. Speaking of the attitude of neighbouring Powers it observes (using the phrase it is in the habit of employing when it receives semi-official communiqués from the Foreign Office)—"We are assured from Vienna that the Monarchy stands since the Danzic interview on a good footing with Russia, and whether it be from pure friendship for us or not those in power at St. Petersburgh will, from a feeling of discreet reserve which is imposed on them by their political situation, refrain from any interference in foreign concerns and the promotion of Panslavist agitations."

Servia, which it goes on to observe, may now be ranked amongst the friends of the Monarchy, feels that were the Panslavist spirit which is working in those districts to obtain the upper hand, it would be an obvious danger to that Principality itself. With regard to Montenegro, while recording the loyal attitude of the Prince, the article says that too much confidence must not be felt in the support or even the neutrality of his subjects, from whom "too much must not be expected." As to Turkey, its relations with Austria-Hungary were, it could confidently be stated, on the best footing, and no antagonism to Austria-Hungary on the part of the Mussulman inhabitants of the provinces would meet with any countenance from the Palace at Constantinople.

In spite of all these favourable circumstances the "Pester Lloyd" concludes with the remark that in the present condition of affairs no human being could venture to prognosticate what might occur within the next ten or twelve days in the disordered districts.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. C. H. PHIPPS.

No. 40.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received January 23.)

(No. 22.)
My Lord, *Vienna, January 18, 1882.*

THE necessity of dispatching troops to the Herzegovina and Southern Dalmatia has determined the Government to reassemble the Delegations in order to obtain their sanction for the expenditure that it will entail.

The accounts which have been received indicate that an insurrectionary movement in the spring is contemplated, which it is hoped the presence of a sufficient military strength may entirely prevent, or if not, crush, before it attains important proportions.

The statements published in the newspapers respecting documents found upon some of the Crivoscies who had been killed, showing that they were being instigated from abroad, are, I am assured, entirely without foundation, and the Government have no cause of complaint, either against Russia or Turkey, or Servia or Montenegro.

They consider the disaffection in the Herzegovina to be agrarian rather than political, the populations being irritated at not being permitted to take possession of

the lands of the Turkish proprietors as they had hoped to do as soon as the authority of the Porte was set aside, and it is believed here that the introduction of the conscription has been made the pretext for the agitation rather than that it is the real cause of the discontent.

Count Kálnoky will avail himself of the opportunity which will be afforded him by the meeting of the Delegations to explain the object and scope of the measures which are being adopted by the Government, and to show that there are no grounds for the suspicion of the ulterior views that have been attributed to them.

The amount of the credit to be asked for has not transpired, but there can be no doubt of its being voted without difficulty, for the necessity for the sacrifice is acknowledged by all, although it will not diminish the dissatisfaction with which the occupation or annexation has been regarded from the first by a large portion of the public of Austria, and by nearly the whole of that of Hungary.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 41.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received January 23.)

E
(No. 23.)
My Lord, *Vienna, January 18, 1882.*

MR. CONSUL FREEMAN, commenting in his despatch No. 2 upon the state of things in the Herzegovina, observes that it would be best for the Austrian Government at once to proclaim the annexation of the country, which all parties consider to be sooner or later inevitable.

Of the inconveniences and evils resulting from the artificial arrangement by which the country was left without an acknowledged sovereign Power, there cannot be two opinions, for it has effectually checked the introduction of capital for the development of its many natural resources, which might easily be made remunerative, and it encourages the natural restlessness of a turbulent people, by keeping alive in them a hope that they may again change masters.

The Imperial authorities have continually, unless I am very much misinformed, represented that, though the country may be kept quiet, no material progress is to be expected till it is known to be permanently annexed and incorporated in the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy.

M. de Giers lately observed to Sir E. Thornton, that though he considered the Berlin Treaty to have intended the Austrian occupation of Bosnia and the Herzegovina to be merely provisional, he believed that it would become permanent, but I imagine it to have been perfectly understood that the occupied provinces would never be restored to the Sultan.

When I have questioned Count Andrássy on the subject, he would reply that Austria would restore the provinces when all the expenses of the occupation were refunded, and when satisfactory proof was given that the Porte was in a position to guarantee the maintenance of tranquillity in them, as Austria could not tolerate the continuance of disorder on her immediate frontiers, but his Excellency used to add, "and this assurance we know we never can have."

It is not unlikely that the present demand for a vote of money may encourage a disposition to press the Government to resort to an open annexation, but it is not easy to perceive a mode by which such a step could be taken without being not only contrary to the terms of the Treaty of Berlin, but still more at variance with those of the subsequent Convention with Turkey.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 42.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received January 23.)

E
(No. 26. Confidential.) *Vienna, January 19, 1882.*
My Lord,

THE Emperor, last night, asked me what were the last accounts of the state of things in Ireland.

I said that, though there had latterly been some encouraging symptoms of improvement, matters were still in a most unsatisfactory state; and His Majesty was himself having experience of the difficulty of dealing with discontent arising from agrarian causes.

This turned the conversation to the Herzegovina, where, the Emperor observed, the trouble was of precisely the same nature as in Ireland, the farmers and cultivators in both countries aiming at obtaining possession of the land of the proprietors.

Upon my inquiring whether he attributed the discontent exclusively to agrarian causes, His Majesty answered that he could not altogether deny that it was also to some extent political, and encouraged by the peculiar nature of the Austrian tenure of the country, in which, some day or other, it would be found necessary to make a change.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 43.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 34.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, January* 23, 1882.

HER Majesty's Government approve the representations made by your Excellency to the Turkish Government against the employment of Moustapha Pronjo in the suppression of brigandage in Epirus, and they have heard with satisfaction of Assim Pasha's prompt compliance with your request, as reported in your despatch No. 3 of the 3rd instant.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 44.

Earl Granville to Musurus Pasha.

M. l'Ambassador, *Foreign Office, January* 23, 1882.

YOUR Excellency was good enough to communicate to me on the 1st and 23rd November last copies of two despatches in which the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs reviewed the various subjects of complaint between the Turkish and Bulgarian Governments. Your Excellency also addressed me a note on the 3rd of that month relative to the condition of the fortresses in Bulgaria.

I referred these matters to Her Majesty's Agent at Sophia, and I have now the honour to inclose two Memoranda containing the explanations conveyed to Mr. Lascelles by the Bulgarian Government in reply to his representations.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 44.

Memorandum.

THE delay that has hitherto taken place in arriving at any solution of the questions to be settled by the Turco-Bulgarian Lands Commission is, according to the Bulgarian Government, due to the difficulty of determining what is the State property to which the Turkish Government is entitled.

If the Sublime Porte possesses any private property, it will be restored after due verification of the title-deeds; but the examination of the title-deeds may give rise to controversy, and in that case the Bulgarian Tribunals would alone be competent to decide the question.

But the Bulgarian Government will not admit that the State property, such as the residences of the Governors and Sub-Governors, the tribunals, prisons, &c., can be restored, as they passed into the hands of the Prince when the sovereignty of the country was transferred to His Highness; moreover, the buildings had been constructed not with funds belonging to the Imperial Treasury, but with the revenues of the Vilayet of the Danube, now the Principality of Bulgaria.

They declare their readiness to restore any property which the Sublime Porte may have possessed as a private person, and they maintain that it is only to that class of property that the XIIIth Article of the Treaty of Berlin refers.

Inclosure 2 in No. 44.

Memorandum.

HER Majesty's Agent at Sophia has called the attention of M. Voulcovitch to the complaints of the Turkish Government enumerated in Assim Pasha's despatch of the 18th October last.

The question of Turkish Commercial Agents in Bulgaria might, he said, be easily settled if any means of official communication existed; but on this point he maintained that the Bulgarian Government had as good ground of complaint as that of Turkey.

This is no reply to the main point in Assim's despatch, which is, that the Bulgarian Agent at Constantinople refuses to communicate with the "Department of Privileged Provinces" (which is attached to the Turkish Foreign Office), and the Bulgarian Government will not reply to the representations of the Porte made through Nihad Pasha.

With regard to the Mosque of Yali Djamissi at Widdin, M. Voulcovitch stated that it had suffered so much during the war, that a large sum would be required to make it fit for use as a place of worship, and as there were still a great number of mosques in Widdin, it had in its present condition been used as a place for keeping arms.

The Turks argue that, by the Treaty of Berlin, the disposal of the mosques remains with the Ottoman Government. By the XIIth Article, matters relating to State property and "vacouf" were to be settled by a Turco-Bulgarian Commission.

M. Voulcovitch argued that the Bulgarian authorities were perfectly justified in turning the Mosque of Ak-Baba at Tirnova into a church. It had only been restored to its original purpose, having been a church in ancient times, and it was the most interesting historical monument in Bulgaria, as it contained inscriptions of the time of the Bulgarian kings.

The fortresses, M. Voulcovitch acknowledged, had not been raised, but they were allowed to go to ruin, and the masonry was gradually disappearing, as it was taken away for building purposes. The fortress of Levan Tabia was used as an arsenal, but he was not aware that it contained any Krupp guns, and he declared that nothing had been done to place it in a state of efficiency.

According to the XIth Article of the Berlin Treaty, "all the old fortresses shall be razed at the expense of the Principality within one year, or sooner if possible; the local Government shall immediately take steps for their demolition, and shall not construct new ones."

M. Voulcovitch does not reply to the Porte's complaint, that the Bulgarian Government refuses to give up military conscripts who have escaped to Bulgaria.

No. 45.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received January 24, 4·30 P.M.)

(No. 21.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, January* 24, 1882, 1·15 P.M.

IT is reported that serious disturbances have broken out in the Yemen, and that the Governor-General is being besieged by the Arab population.

No. 46.

Sir J. Pauncefote to the Law Officers of the Crown and Dr. Deane.

Foreign Office, January 24, 1882.

Gentlemen,

THE Greek Government have addressed to the Greek Chargé d'Affaires in this country a despatch, of which a copy has been communicated to Earl Granville, complaining that the Turkish Government refuse to recognize the right of Greek Consuls in the Ottoman dominions to inscribe as Greek subjects and take under their protection "originaires" of the districts lately ceded to Greece, who, having a Turkish domicile, may desire to adopt Hellenic nationality.

I have the honour to transmit herewith a copy of the despatch from the Greek Government,* and the Parliamentary Paper which contains the Convention for the settlement of the frontier between Greece and Turkey of the 24th May last;† and I am directed by Earl Granville to request that you will inform him whether the terms of the XIIIth Article

* See Part LXVIII, No. 47*.

† "Greece No. 7 (1881)."

can be held to give to the Greek Government the rights to which they lay claim, or whether, independently of the terms of the Convention, the Greek Government can claim for "originaires" of the ceded provinces, who were settled in Turkey at the time of the cession, the right to elect between Turkish and Greek nationality.

I am, &c.
(Signed) JULIAN PAUNCEFOTE.

No. 47.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received January 26.)

(No. 2.)
My Lord, *Scutari, January 14, 1882.*

LEST exaggerated statements should appear in the newspapers of the continuance of an unsettled state of affairs on the Albanian frontier near Podgoritza, I venture to report to your Lordship that the Montenegrins in that direction and the Albanian tribes of Grudi and Hotti have within the last ten days been, so to speak, settling accounts for outstanding cattle-lifting cases perpetrated on each other, and that the process has naturally involved considerable exchange between the several parties of threats and abuse, which appears to have more alarmed the Turkish authorities at Tousi and here than the mountaineers.

Abdi Pasha, the Military Commander of the province, proceeded yesterday from Scutari to Tousi to assure himself personally of the reported satisfactory settlement of all pending questions, and possibly also to inquire into the grounds for the persistent rumours prevailing in Mahommedan circles here that the Roman Catholic Albanian frontier mountaineers have received instructions from abroad (Austria) to maintain an irritated and aggressive attitude.

I believe that these rumours have no other foundation than in the fears of the Turkish authorities raised by the undisguised conviction of the mountaineers that they are to pass before long under the dominion of Austria-Hungary, and that the present occurrences are no less nor greater than the friction which has ever existed between the opposing races on these frontiers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 48.

Earl Granville to Prince Jon Ghika.

E
M. le Ministre, *Foreign Office, January 26, 1882.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of the note which you addressed to me on the 28th ultimo on the subject of the convents and properties in Roumania which are claimed by the Greek monasteries of the Holy Places; and, with reference to the observations contained therein, I have the honour to remind you that this question formed the subject of discussion at a Conference at Paris in 1858, and again in 1859, on which the Signatory Powers of the Treaty of 1856 were represented; and by the 13th Protocol of the Conference of 1858 it was decided that if the matter could not be settled by amicable arrangement within one year, each party should name arbiters, and in the event of their failure, an arbiter should be selected by the Great Powers and the Porte.

The confiscation of the properties by the Principalities in 1863 was declared by Her Majesty's Government to be an act involving the international relations of the Porte with the Powers, and in contravention of the 13th Protocol of the Conference to which I have referred. The result was that the matter was again brought before a Mixed Commission, which sat at Constantinople from 1864 to 1866, and was composed of Delegates named by the Representatives of the Powers who signed the Treaty of Paris.

These facts appear sufficiently to demonstrate, M. le Ministre, that the claims of the Holy Places are a subject of international interest, and, in consenting to the plan of arbitration which has been urged upon the Powers by the Turkish Government, Her Majesty's Government are of opinion that they are acting not only upon principles which were laid down in 1858, but also in accordance with the recommendation of the Congress of Berlin, as recorded in the 15th Protocol, that the question should be treated by the Powers outside the Congress, and be examined into upon the old bases.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 49.

Assim Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to Earl Granville by Musurus Pasha, January 27.)

E
M. l'Ambassadeur, *Sublime Porte, le 13 Janvier, 1882.*

J'AI reçu la dépêche responsive que votre Excellence a bien voulu m'adresser le 26 Novembre, par rapport à la question des forteresses du Danube.

Malgré la démarche que votre Excellence a faite à ce sujet auprès du Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique, l'exécution de l'Article XI du Traité de Berlin se fait toujours attendre. Nous avons de la peine à nous l'expliquer, les autorités Bulgares ne sauraient s'émanciper d'une stipulation formelle dictée par des considérations d'ordre majeur.

Je vous prie de revenir sur cette question auprès du Cabinet de St. James, et de vous attacher à écarter toute hésitation quant à l'application d'une clause qui ne saurait prêter à aucune équivoque. Il va sans dire que le but désiré ne serait point atteint par une exécution partielle de l'Article susvisé, tel que désarmement ou démantèlement.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) M. ASSIM.

No. 50.

Consul St. John to Earl Granville.—(Received January 30.)

(No. 4.)
My Lord, *Ragusa, January 16, 1882.*

I HAVE to report an insurrectionary movement in Southern Herzegovina. Bands of insurgents, composed principally of Mussulmans, have taken to the mountains of Gatzko, where they have their strongholds plentifully supplied with stores, arms, and ammunition. Every man draws his rations and pay at the rate of about 4*d.* a-day, wherefrom no one knows. Some Austrian outposts have been cut to pieces, and the portion of isolated troops in that locality is said to be critical. Reinforcements continue to arrive at Ragusa, which are at once sent inland in the direction of Trebinje, with the view to cutting off all communication between the Herzegovinian insurgents and those in the Bocche di Cattaro. Fears are entertained that the movement will spread unless speedily put down, of which there appears but little hope.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. ST. JOHN.

No. 51.

Mr. Locock to Earl Granville.—(Received January 30.)

(No. 7.)
My Lord, *Belgrade, January 20, 1882.*

NO answer has yet been received from the Porte either by the Servian Government or by the Ottoman Legation here to the offers of the Government to take directly on itself the payment of the indemnities awarded by the Agrarian Commissions to the Turkish proprietors, and to facilitate the return of the Albanian emigrants.

I have the honour to inform your Lordship that the Government is nevertheless determined to adhere to its proposals, and to find the money necessary to carry out the first of them, and that in the speech of Prince Milan on opening the Skuptchina next Sunday, his Highness will inform that body of what has been determined on, and will request its aid in carrying it into effect.

I have, &c.
(Signed) SIDNEY LOCOCK.

No. 52.

Mr. Locock to Earl Granville.—(Received January 30.)

(No. 13.)
My Lord,

Belgrade, January 22, 1882.

IN consequence of the statements proceeding from Vienna, that the rising in the Herzegovina is being fed by numbers pouring in from Servia, and in consequence also of information which I have received here that material aid is being furnished by the National party to the insurgents, I this afternoon instructed Mr. Mason to take advantage of his acquaintance with some of the leaders of the party to whom these proceedings are attributed, and try to ascertain the exact fact. This he has done; and I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship a copy of the Memorandum which he has just placed in my hands containing the result of his inquiry.

I have, &c.
(Signed) SIDNEY LOCOCK.

Inclosure in No. 52.

Memorandum.

RELATIVE to the alleged crossing of Servians in large numbers from Servia into Bosnia, with the object of aiding the rising against Austrian authority in the Herzegovina, the following information has come to my knowledge:—

1. The National party (at the head of which is M. Ristich, supported by the Metropolitan Michael, long known as the representative of the Moscow Panslav Committee) is by tradition and history opposed to any kind of Government in Bosnia and the Herzegovina dividing the Servian people there from themselves. Consequently, every new attempt to plant Austrian authority firmly in these provinces is viewed by it with unconcealed dislike, and the organs of the party miss no opportunity of attacking the Progressists (the Government party) for their want of patriotism on this subject.

2. The National party not being in office, and not having the responsibilities of Government, exercises its propaganda through the press, in hope of creating in the interior an unfavourable impression of the Government measures, and thereby paving the way to success in the coming struggle for place in the next elections in 1883.

3. Through this widespread propaganda of the National party the peasantry are liberally informed of the events passing in the Herzegovina, and continually discuss them; thereby the fuel is being stored up which, if opportunity occurred, would make them readily lend a helping hand to their kinsmen, whom they are taught to believe suffer from the usurpation of an oppressor.

4. This state of things, however, takes no substantial form, as no successful initiative has yet displayed itself to which they can trust. There are, however, in the interior of Servia, Austrian Servians who are outlawed from Austrian territory; there are, also, the near relatives of the revolted Herzegovinians, and from these it is believed numbers of armed men have passed over the Servian frontier, by circuitous and mountain paths where there is no watch, into Bosnian territory. Their fate is, however, one of the most dangerous and uncertain, and they have to be smuggled by Servian friends from one hiding-place to another, till they reach the small bands of insurgents in the high lands of the Herzegovina.

5. As to their probable number, it is estimated at the Austrian Consulate here not to exceed 300, and the chief members of the National party declare it to be still less—the smallest number I have heard named being 50. If any active aid of a notable character is to be rendered to the insurgents, it will manifest itself first in the spring. The initiative of the National party is, however, awaited from abroad; and any great movement against Austria is not regarded practicable, if merely limited to the resources of Servia.

The well-known Herzegovinian insurgent leader, Lubobratitch, continues to reside in Belgrade, where his movements are being carefully watched.

(Signed) J. ALEXANDER MASON.

Belgrade, January 22, 1882.

No. 53.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received January 30.)

(No. 29.)
My Lord.

Vienna, January 25, 1882.

THE Delegations are summoned for the 28th instant, when they will be asked to vote the credit for the measures required for tranquillizing the Herzegovina. The accounts of the movement given by the newspapers during the last week have been very gloomy; but they are stated to be greatly exaggerated, and that the Government believe this to be the case appears from the fact that further reinforcements of the troops are not being dispatched.

There does not, indeed, seem to have been any actual insurrectionary movement of importance; but the preparations for one as soon as the weather admits of it are found to be greater than had been supposed, and there is no lack of arms in the possession of the population.

No complaint is made against the Porte of encouraging the movement, and reinforcements have been sent to the Sandjak of Novi-Bazar, where the officers of the Austro-Hungarian and Turkish armies continue to live in the most friendly relations.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 54.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received January 30.)

E
(No. 31.)
My Lord,

Vienna, January 25, 1882.

THE Turkish Ambassador yesterday made a renewed representation to the Imperial Government on the subject of the non-demolition of the Bulgarian fortresses.

Count Kálnoky, in speaking of it to me, afterwards said that the justice of the complaint of the Porte was so indisputable that, after the manner in which Turkey had executed the provisions of the Treaty which imposed such heavy sacrifices upon her, it seemed scarcely possible to disregard the appeal, although he felt embarrassed as to the action which could be taken upon the question.

I said that Her Majesty's Government had frequently directed Mr. Lascelles to point out to the Bulgarian Government the obligations under which they lay, and the answer had been to the effect that, nothing having been done to maintain the fortresses in repair, and much of the stone having been removed for use elsewhere, they had practically demolished themselves.

His Excellency said that the same answer had been returned to the representations of the Austro-Hungarian Agent, but he did not regard it as convincing or sufficient.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 55.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received January 30.)

(No. 33.)
My Lord,

Vienna, January 25, 1882.

THE newspapers have announced as a fact that an arrangement has been come to with the Prince of Montenegro by which Austro-Hungarian troops will be permitted to occupy some positions within the frontiers of the Principality with the view of impeding the movements of the Crivoscian insurgents.

The announcement was, I believe, first made by the Vienna correspondent of the "Standard," whose lively imagination has of late frequently led him to give startling pieces of intelligence; but it is, I am assured, altogether incorrect, as the Imperial Government are perfectly satisfied with the attitude of His Highness, and ready to make every allowance for the difficulty of his position.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 56.

Mr. Phipps to Sir H. Elliot.—(Received at the Foreign Office, January 30.)

(No. 5 A.)
Sir,
Buda-Pesth, January 25, 1882.

THE reply made by M. Tiszn on the 23rd instant to the very comprehensive interpellation addressed to the Government with regard to the state of affairs in Dalmatia and the Herzegovina threw but little fresh light on the question, and served only to give authentic sanction to the semi-official statements which have recently been made at Vienna.

The Prime Minister declared that the disorders in question had attained such dimensions as to necessitate energetic action on the part of the dual Government, and that it was determined to prevent them spreading any further, while with regard to the Herzegovina, the inhabitants must be brought to a conviction that the disturbing elements which for so long had been allowed full play could not, under the Austro-Hungarian régime, be permitted to subsist.

M. Tisza's repeated assertion in the course of his speech, that these disorders would by everyone be considered "very natural," has provoked much unfavourable criticism.

In reference to the inquiry addressed to him as to the future intentions of the Government with regard to the occupied provinces, he declared that the Government stood firmly on the basis of existing Treaties, and did not consider it to be incumbent upon them, at a moment when the re-establishment of order was the most urgent necessity, to occupy themselves with plans for the future. He added that no steps had been taken, or could be taken, by the Turkish Government in connection with the disorders referred to.

The Minister President has considered it requisite to address a Circular to the newspaper editors of this capital, appealing to their sense of patriotism not to publish any reports relative to the movements of troops, or as to the extent of the reinforcements dispatched to the Eastern provinces.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. C. H. PHIPPS.

No. 57.

Earl Granville to Mr. Lascelles.

(No. 12.)
Sir,
Foreign Office, January 30, 1882.

WITH reference to your despatch No. 178 of the 29th ult. reporting your conversation with M. Voulcovitch on the subject of the Land Commission, I approve the language which you used to his Excellency in regard to the injustice which will be caused to the Turkish proprietors if no measures of relief are applied until the whole of its labours are concluded.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 58.

The Law Officers of the Crown and Dr. Deane to Earl Granville.—(Received January 31.)

My Lord,
Temple, January 30, 1882.

WE are honoured with your Lordship's commands signified in Mr. Lister's letter of the 24th instant, stating that the Greek Government had addressed to the Greek Chargé d'Affaires in this country a despatch, of which a copy had been communicated to your Lordship, complaining that the Turkish Government refused to recognize the right of Greek Consuls in the Ottoman dominions to inscribe as Greek subjects and take under their protection "originaires" of the districts lately ceded to Greece who, having a Turkish domicile, may desire to adopt Hellenic nationality.

That Mr. Lister had the honour to transmit therewith a copy of the despatch from the Greek Government, and the Parliamentary Paper which contained the Convention for the settlement of the frontier between Greece and Turkey of the 24th May last; and that he was directed by your Lordship to request that we would inform you whether the terms of the XIIIth Article could be held to give to the Greek Government the rights to which they laid claim, or whether, independently of the terms of the Convention, the Greek

Government could claim for "originaires" of the ceded provinces who were settled in Turkey at the time of the cession the right to elect between Turkish and Greek nationality.

In obedience to your Lordship's commands we have the honour to report—

That, in our opinion, the terms of the XIIIth Article cannot be held to give to the Greek Government the right to which they lay claim. That Article only provides that natives of the ceded territories, or persons domiciled there, may, by transferring their domicile to Turkey, retain their Turkish nationality. But it does not, in terms, nor, as we think, by implication, provide that "originaires" of the ceded provinces domiciled in Turkey may elect to become Greek subjects.

We are of opinion that the Greek Government is not entitled, independently of the terms of the Convention, to make such a claim. The cession provided for by the Convention would thereafter subject to the laws of Greece all persons within the ceded territory; but, in the absence of any stipulation to that effect in the Convention, it would not, in our opinion, affect the nationality of persons domiciled in Turkey, even though "originaires" of the ceded territory.

We have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY JAMES.
FARRER HERSCHELL.
J. PARKER DEANE.

No. 59.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received February 2.)

(No. 46. Confidential.)
My Lord,
Constantinople, January 25, 1882.

I CAUSED inquiries to be made as to the view taken at the Porte in regard to the insurrection in the Herzegovina, and I am informed that though the movement is not supposed to be fomented by the Turks, a secret satisfaction is felt here at its existence.

Assim Pasha, I am told, considers the insurrection as of a very serious character, and that the Austrians were too precipitate in applying military service to the native population who enjoyed a limited exemption under Turkish administration.

An impression, I am told, exists at the Austrian Embassy here, that a member of the English Liberal party has been active in encouraging the insurrectionary movement.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 60.

Consul Freeman to Earl Granville.—(Received February 3.)

(No. 4.)
My Lord,
Serajevo, January 27, 1882.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 3 of the 14th instant, I have the honour to report to your Lordship that the disturbances in these provinces are daily assuming a more serious character, and the Herzegovina must already be considered in a state of insurrection. In fact, an exactly similar state of affairs obtains at the present moment as in the autumn of 1875. Bands of insurgents of greater or less strength infest all the mountainous districts, isolated gendarmerie posts are driven in, and convoys are attacked and carried off.

The following events that have occurred of late will bear out this assertion:—

At the Bridge of Ulok, on the Narenta, and at Dabra, in the district of Stolack, the gendarmes were forced to yield to an overpowering force of insurgents; but, having been disarmed, were permitted to retire.

At Korito the gendarmerie station was reinforced by some military, and fighting took place on several consecutive days about the middle of this month.

Yesterday there was an engagement between two companies of infantry and a body of insurgents, estimated at over 300, at Turcin, about 20 miles from this town on the Mostar road, and the troops, I hear, had six men wounded. This band of insurgents probably came from the district of Zagorin, where the whole population is said to be in revolt. The Mussulmans of the district, I am told, communicated, a short time since, with their co-religionists in this town, and asked their advice as to the attitude they should assume, and were recommended to come with their families and their goods and chattels to Sera-

jevo. They replied, however, that if they attempted to do so they would be robbed of everything and their houses would be burned by their Christian fellow-countrymen. Such was always the policy of the Herzegovinian insurgents to force the unwilling to join in the revolt.

An unescorted caravan of 120 horses, carrying flour from Metkovich for the troops at Plevlje, was also lately carried off by a band of insurgents under a certain Mussulman Chief named Sali Forta, of Foca.

Although no actual disturbances have occurred at Mostar, there appears to be great excitement there, and from 100 to 150 of the inhabitants, Mussulman as well as Christian, have quitted the town, and, it is supposed, joined the insurgents.

Here perfect tranquillity prevails, but both Christians and Mahommedans positively declare that they will not render military service to the Austrians. Probably, as the time approaches for the drawing of lots, great numbers will take flight, and either join the insurrection in the Herzegovina or clandestinely quit the country.

The discontented and antagonistic spirit of the Orthodox population of this town has been manifested lately on more than one occasion. All the Orthodox members of the Municipal Council have resigned their seats. When the Catholic Archbishop arrived the Orthodox community took no part in his reception, and on the 18th January, the fête of the Epiphany, the Orthodox Archbishop and community refused to perform the customary ceremony of blessing the waters, and were only constrained to do so by threats of having soldiers quartered in their houses in case of refusal.

I do not myself believe in any serious rising in Bosnia. In 1875 only those districts along the Austrian frontier were in open revolt, and not even in the districts bordering on Servia was there any important movement.

The attitude of the Mussulmans is, for the moment, rather one of expectancy. Much as they are opposed to the law of conscription, they show but little inclination to throw in their lot with the Christian population in any insurrectional movement, and were they once convinced that the occupation of the country by Austria was permanent and irrevocable, I believe they would soon reconcile themselves to the measure.

In the Herzegovina the movement bears quite another aspect, and there is little doubt that, under any circumstances, there would have been a more or less extended rising in the course of the ensuing summer. The introduction of military service and affairs in Crivoscie have only precipitated events. The people of the Herzegovina may be said to have been in a state of chronic rebellion for the last thirty years, and the present generation is never likely to settle down quietly and become laborious peasants. They are also discontented with their lot, as compared with that of the inhabitants of the districts ceded to Montenegro, as they have not become proprietors of the soil they cultivate, their taxes are heavier, and the payment is enforced with greater stringency than by the Turkish Government, and they are still subject to a Government alien both in race and religion. Under these circumstances, too, they fall an easy prey to foreign agitators, and the fact of their being possessed of money to carry out their schemes is cited as a proof that such agitators have been at work in the present case. Whether such is really the fact I cannot say, but if the insurgents receive no extraneous assistance the revolt must soon collapse.

On the other hand, if they continue to receive supplies of arms and ammunition from Montenegro, as is undoubtedly the case at present, and if they can always place their families in security over the Montenegrin frontier, I fear Austria has a more difficult task before her than she imagines. It is not like having to confront a tangible enemy, over whom a decisive victory can be gained; and although I am well aware of the superior military organization and capacity of the Austrian army as compared with that of the Porte, I doubt the Austrian soldier being as well fitted for the guerilla warfare of the Herzegovina as the Turkish soldier.

Considerable reinforcements are now arriving in the country, and the garrison of Serajevo has been strengthened by two regiments of infantry, representing about a couple of thousand men.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWD. B. FREEMAN.

No. 61.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received February 4.)

(No. 36.) *Vienna, January 31, 1882.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose an abstract of the Memorandum by which the Austro-Hungarian Government conveyed to the Delegations the demand for a credit of 8,000,000 fl. to meet the cost of the measures which it has been found necessary to take in the Herzegovina and Southern Dalmatia.

The proportion to be furnished by each of the two divisions of the Monarchy will be at the rate of 70 per cent. for Austria, and 30 per cent. for Hungary.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 61.

Memorandum.

AFTER the occupation of Bosnia and the Herzegovina, and when the regular Administration had been established, there was every hope that peace and order would reign in those countries.

It is true that robber bands occasionally appeared on the Servo-Bosnian frontier, but the local authorities, with the assistance of gendarmerie, and sometimes of the military, always succeeded in putting them down. Under these circumstances, the reductions in the military forces, which had been laid before the Delegations, were carried out in the years 1881-82.

In the summer of 1881 a robber band appeared in the Herzegovina on the Montenegrin frontier, and created sensation in attacking a military post, but produced no great impression upon the general feeling of the people.

It cannot, however, be denied that a certain feeling of dissatisfaction at the general state of the country was now beginning to show itself. The Mahommedans had lost their preponderant position, and the Christians had not seen all their hopes and wishes realized. The material condition of the country had, however, much improved, houses had been rebuilt, the soil was again being cultivated, &c., and the Government considered that the moment had come to decide on measures to be taken for introducing military service in Bosnia and the Herzegovina. Though they did not consider that this would be unattended with difficulties, yet they did not anticipate that any great demonstration of force would be necessary.

The Report received from the General Commanding-in-chief in December 1881 showed that this proposal had produced a deep impression on the population, that neither Mahommedans nor Christians were in favour of military service, and that only a portion of the Christian population recognized the measure as necessary. The Report went on to say that only in a few districts would active opposition be offered, while in the greater part of the provinces, and especially in Bosnia, the recruiting would be possible without having recourse to force, if the number of troops, so much reduced since 1880, were again to be increased, and the Commander-in-chief were given the means of nipping in the bud any attempt at opposition that might be made, and also providing that matters were not complicated by external influence and agitation from abroad.

Such was the condition of Bosnia and the Herzegovina when, in October 1881, the recruiting of the reserves took place in South Dalmatia. It was carried out in almost all districts, even in those where resistance had been offered in 1869. It was only in Uhli, Crivoscie, and Orovne that those who were bound to present themselves did not appear. But it was hoped that it would not be necessary to take any extraordinary measures, and that the usual punishments carried out against certain of the delinquents would have due effect on the others.

On the 9th November, however, two robber bands made an incursion from the Herzegovina into the Crivoscie, and destroyed some blockhouses which had been abandoned in 1879 by the military authorities as no more fit for use, as well as the school of Uhrine.

Attacks were constantly made on small divisions of troops, provision transports, &c., in the Herzegovina, Sottorina, and South Dalmatia, and raids on peaceful districts along the coast. In this way it was that the present movement had its origin.

1. Reinforcements for South Dalmatia.

The first duty of the Government was to restore security in, and protect from raids

the coast districts of the Bocche di Cattaro. For this purpose it was decided to draw together eight battalions on a peace footing, and to add two mountain batteries in the district of the Bocche. Measures were to be taken for protecting the harbour and land fortifications, and the fleet was ordered to be on the spot.

2. Reinforcements for Bosnia and the Herzegovina.

It was not to be expected that military service could be introduced without the slightest opposition, and arrangements had consequently been made by which the troops destined this winter to relieve those in the two provinces were to proceed there in February, while those to be relieved were not to return to Austria till the measures were carried through. After the events, however, in the Crivoscie, the Government found it necessary to send the relief troops as early as January, and at the same time to raise the strength of the two regiments ordered to Dalmatia by calling out their reserves. It has since then been found necessary to send further mountain batteries to Dalmatia, and to mobilize the Landwehr rifle battalions stationed there.

3. Raising the strength of the infantry by calling out the reserves.

Owing to the open opposition in the Herzegovina, and the continued resistance of the Crivoscians, an increase of forces has become necessary, and it has therefore been decided to raise all the infantry now stationed in the occupied provinces and in Dalmatia to a war footing, and to increase the mountain batteries, sanitary trains, &c., and to call in those of the reserve troops at present absent on leave. These measures will produce a considerable augmentation of the troops, and will not weigh heavily on the people, as all parts of the Empire will have to contribute their share, and it is only calculated to last a short period.

4. Detailed notice of the various military and administrative measures requiring extraordinary expenditure.

5. In the foregoing Memorandum the Ministry consider that they have fully proved the necessity of the proposed measures, but they are compelled to maintain a reserve, required by circumstances, as to the actual employment and disposition of the various forces.

The Ministry are fully aware that the sacrifices which they now call upon the Delegations to sanction are no inconsiderable ones; but they are obliged to add that the present amount is only intended for immediate expenses and those of the next three months, and that when the movement is put down, further sums will be required to restore the war material, and to maintain, as will probably be necessary, stronger garrisons in the Herzegovina, and perhaps also in Southern Dalmatia. The Ministry are, however, convinced that it is their duty to put down the insurrection at its very beginning, and to uphold the authority of the Empire.

No. 62.

E (No. 64.)

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.

My Lord, *Foreign Office, February 4, 1882.*

THE Turkish Ambassador called at this Office on the 27th ultimo, and left the inclosed copy of a despatch from the Porte insisting on the complete execution of the stipulation of the Treaty of Berlin which provides for the demolition of the fortresses in Bulgaria.*

I told Musurus Pasha that his Government seemed to me to be in the right; that it might possibly be a question whether, for practical purposes, it would not be sufficient to allow the fortresses to fall into ruin by process of time, and by the use of the materials for other purposes; but there certainly was nothing in the language of the Treaty which would justify any part of the fortresses being used as an arsenal.

I said that Her Majesty's Government would be ready to join with the other Powers in any representation which it might be decided to make to the Bulgarian Government on the subject.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

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* No. 49.

No. 63.

E (No. 65.)

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.

My Lord, *Foreign Office, February 4, 1882.*

THE Turkish Ambassador referred this afternoon to the differences which had arisen between the Porte and the Bulgarian Government as to the Mixed Commission appointed to decide the various questions relating to the State and religious property in the Principality.

I stated to Musurus Pasha that, as I understood it, the Bulgarian Government had not, as he seemed to suppose, given an appeal from the Mixed Commission to the Bulgarian Law Courts.

The state of the case I took to be as follows:—

The powers of the Commission were to deal (for the purposes mentioned in Article XII of the Treaty of Berlin) with property belonging to the State and vacoufs, and with the interests of private persons concerned therein, that is to say, with questions of Crown leases and tenancies and such like. The property generally included under the head of Crown property may be divided into three classes—

1. Public buildings, such as barracks, hospitals, Courts of Justice, prisons, residences of Governors, &c., which bring in no revenue, but involve expenditure for their maintenance, and which are indispensable to the administration of government. For this kind of property the Bulgarians contended that there was no valid claim for compensation to be made to the Porte—that it had passed with the sovereignty of the Principality.

2. There might be property belonging to the Crown, and bringing in a revenue. It was with property of this kind that the Commission would have to deal, with a view to its alienation or management on account of the Porte. But—

3. There might also be private property of the Sultan himself which it did not come within the powers of the Commission to touch.

In case any of the property assumed to belong to the first or second class were claimed as private property of the Sultan, or as the actual property of any other private individual, the claim, if proved, would take such property out of the hands of the Commission. But this was a question of law, and the claim, if contested, would have to be substantiated before a Court of Justice, who would have to pronounce on the validity of the title-deeds or other evidence.

His Excellency told me that his Government desired that the Commission should be prolonged for another term of three years.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 64.

E (No. 51.)

Earl Granville to Lord Ampthill.

My Lord, *Foreign Office, February 4, 1882.*

I TRANSMIT to your Excellency herewith a copy of a despatch which I have addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, repeating the substance of a conversation I have had with Musurus Pasha on the question of the Danubian fortresses in Bulgaria.*

I informed Count Münster, in reply to a casual inquiry on his part, of the nature of the reply which I was about to make to Musurus Pasha on this subject.

His Excellency thanked me. He said the question would probably be raised shortly at Berlin also, and he was glad to be enabled to inform his Government of the view taken here with regard to it.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

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* No. 62.

No. 65.

Lord Ampthill to Earl Granville.—(Received February 6.)

(No. 31. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Berlin, February 3, 1882.*

THE suspicions created by General Skobeleff's speech on the anniversary of the battle of Geuk-Tépé have been mitigated by a spontaneous expression of regret on the part of M. de Giers to the allies of the Russian Government—Austria and Germany, whilst the General has been advised to banish himself to France and Italy during the coming winter.

Prince Bismarck, it is said, attaches no importance to the incident, and attributes the General's effusion solely to the post-prandial patriotism of a popular Panslavist.

Nevertheless, he has turned it to account, and has asked at St. Petersburgh whether the General's speech is in any way connected with the secret conveyance of arms and ammunition from Russia up the Danube to Servia for Bosnia, and whether the Russian Government will take measures to put a stop to these Panslavistic proceedings.

Prince Bismarck, I am assured, thinks very seriously of the Bosnian insurrection, but I have not heard him myself speak on the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AMPTHILL.

No. 66.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received February 6, 10 P.M.)

(No. 5.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, February 6, 1882, 2·6 P.M.*

THE two Delegations have voted the credit of 8,000,000 fl. for suppression of the movement in the Herzegovina, and the Extraordinary Session will end to-day.

No. 67.

Earl Granville to Mr. Ford.

(No. 21.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, February 7, 1882.*

IN the inclosed copy of a note which was communicated to me by the Greek Chargé d'Affaires on the 29th December last,* the Greek Government complain that the Porte refuses to recognize the right of Greek Consuls in the Ottoman dominions to inscribe as Greek subjects and take under their protection natives of the districts lately ceded to Greece who, though residing in Turkey, may desire to adopt Hellenic nationality. You will perceive that the Greek Government base their claim to this right on the XIIIth Article of the Convention of the 24th May.

I have to observe that that Article only provides that natives of the ceded territories, or persons domiciled there, may, by transferring their domicile to Turkey, retain their Turkish nationality; but it does not, in terms, or, as Her Majesty's Government think, by implication, provide that natives of the ceded provinces, domiciled in Turkey, may elect to become Greek subjects. Her Majesty's Government are of opinion that the Greek Government is not entitled, either by the terms of that Article or independently of them, to make such a claim. The cession provided for by the Convention would thereafter subject to the laws of Greece all persons within the ceded territory, but, in the absence of any stipulation to that effect in the Convention, Her Majesty's Government do not consider that it would affect the nationality of persons domiciled in Turkey, even though they be natives of the ceded territory.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

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* See Part LXVIII, No. 478.

No. 68.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received February 8.)

E
(No. 4. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Cettinjé, January 19, 1882.*

WITH reference to my recent despatches from Scutari to your Lordship on the subject of the aggressive attitude assumed by the Roman Catholic Albanian tribes on the frontier near Podgoritza, both towards the Turkish authorities at Tousi and the neighbouring Montenegrins, I have the honour to report to your Lordship that Voivode Radonich has expressed to me the anxiety which this state of things is giving to the Montenegrin Government; and his Excellency has further told me, confidentially, that, from trustworthy information reaching the Prince, there is reason to believe that M. Lippich, the Austrian Consul-General at Scutari, is at the bottom of the proceedings of the Albanian mountaineers.

Whilst clearly making M. Radonich understand that I did wish to assume any responsibility as to the value to be placed on my observations, still I could not disguise from his Excellency that I was quite unable to perceive, from the public conduct pursued by M. Lippich at Scutari, that he was in any way concerned in the intrigues attributed to him. I was, however, obliged to admit that the belief in Austrian action over the Roman Catholic tribes is strongly held by the Turkish authorities and native Mussulmans at Scutari, and that the mountaineers themselves, in a more or less vague manner, give currency to this belief.

Riza Bey, the Turkish Envoy here, has also spoken to me on the subject, and he is evidently disposed to adopt the Montenegrin view of the matter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 69.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received February 8.)

E
(No. 5.)
My Lord, *Cettinjé, January 19, 1882.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that Chekib Bey, the Porte's Commissioner for the settlement of all questions connected with Vakouf's in the recently-annexed territories to Montenegro, and for coming to an arrangement concerning the amount of the share of the Ottoman Public Debt to be assumed by the Montenegrin Government for the new territories assigned to the Principality by the Treaty of Berlin, has been in Cettinjé for some time past.

Voivode Radonich informs me that, when Chekib Bey called on him and announced to him the objects of his mission, his Excellency at once told him that the Montenegrin Government could but consider his arrival in the Principality as premature, for Prince Nicholas would certainly decline to permit any official discussion of the matters in question as long as the delimitation of the new frontiers of Montenegro remained incomplete.

Voivode Radonich, however, remarked in a private manner to Chekib Bey that the Montenegrin Government was not aware that any Vakouf lands or property existed in the ceded territories, or that valid titles to that end could be produced. With reference to the Montenegrin share of the Public Debt, his Excellency also observed that he had been much amused by a pretension once put forward by the present Turkish Envoy's predecessor, Khalid Bey, who estimated the sums due from Montenegro at 20,000,000 piastres. M. Radonich had then inquired on what basis the claim could be sustained when it was notorious that the Principality as a whole—old and new territories—could hardly be made, with taxation pushed to its utmost limits, to yield a yearly income of 2,000,000 piastres; and now the Voivode wished to know of the Turkish Commissioner whether he was authorized by the Porte to come to a settlement with the Montenegrin Government for the important sum it claimed for the subsistence of Turkish prisoners made during the war.

Chekib Bey answered that he perceived it was desirable for him to remain silent on all matters until he could obtain further instructions from Constantinople, and in the meantime no further intercourse has taken place between the Turkish Commissioner and the Montenegrin Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 70.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(*Received February* 8.)

E
(No. 6. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Cettinjé, January* 20, 1882.

ON the 17th instant Prince Nicholas left Cettinjé for the town of Danilovgrad, where all the military Commanders and officers of the Principality, to the number of about 500, had been directed to meet His Highness for the following day, the Feast of the Epiphany, according to the old style.

It had been first intended to collect at Danilovgrad the whole military force of the Principality for it to be passed in review by its Sovereign, but it was afterwards considered, in presence of the state of affairs in the Bocche di Cattaro and the Herzegovina, more prudent to avoid any misconception that might arise through such a concentration of Montenegrin troops.

I understand that the day before yesterday the meeting between the Prince and his officers was celebrated with considerable solemnity, and that His Highness, after explaining to them in a long speech the advantages that would result from the reforms in their military organization recently introduced by him, availed himself of the opportunity to point out to them the grave responsibility and obligation under which the Principality now found itself of loyally maintaining its neutrality towards the Austro-Hungarian Government whilst the latter was endeavouring to restore order and contentment among the populations on the northern border of Montenegro.

Baron Thoemmel, the Austro-Hungarian Minister Resident, who had been expressly invited by Prince Nicholas to accompany him to Danilovgrad, was doubtless unable to observe that the official proceedings did not represent exactly what is described above, but I should most likely be misleading your Lordship if I vouched that the Prince and his officers did not thoroughly understand each other. They, as Colonel Thoemmel knows full well, must have chiefly met to secretly assure each other that, whatever circumstances may oblige them to do outwardly, bearing the appearance of indifference to the fate of their Slav brethren over the borders, their sympathies, to say the least, will still always be with those insurgents.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 71.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(*Received February* 8.)

E
(No. 7.)

My Lord, *Cettinjé, January* 21, 1882.

SINCE my arrival here from Scutari I have observed from my conversations both with Montenegrin officials and others that a desire exists to raise an impression that the state of affairs in the Bocche di Cattaro and in the Herzegovina and Bosnia is most serious, and this in contradistinction to the attempt which has been made in Austrian official circles to diminish its importance, or rather throw a veil over the whole matter.

I have also noticed that the cue appears to have been given to endeavour to fix the responsibility of the agitation in the occupied provinces upon the Sultan, and it is therefore asserted that the Herzegovinian insurgents are in direct communication with Yildiz Kiosk, and that Dervish Pasha's activity in Albania has been really connected with preparations for assisting the rising which has now commenced.

In this manner a fair explanation is furnished of the facilities which the insurgents evidently enjoy of obtaining arms and ammunition and even money.

With regard to the pecuniary supplies, another explanation might offer itself to a suspicious mind, when it is recollected that a few months ago Prince Nicholas hardly made a secret of the fact that he expected never to be called upon to repay the Russian Government for the loan of 800,000 roubles made to him in 1879 for the purchase of grain (*vide* despatch No. 3 of the 19th instant), and that now a Montenegrin Agent is expressly sent to Vienna to pay over to the Russian Ambassador there an instalment of that loan. The Montenegrins are sufficiently practical financiers to understand the inutility of paying in Vienna what could by a simple banking cheque be discharged in St. Petersburgh, and the solemn formality said to have been carried out in Vienna by M. Niko Matunovitch looks as if it had been conceived on the same lines as the Prince's speech on the obligations of neutrality to his Commanders and officers at Danilovgrad,

and at the delivery of which Colonel Thoemmel had been especially invited to be present.

Whether the rising owes its origin to Constantinople or St. Petersburgh is probably a question that must be left open, but the likelihood of its remaining long under the control of those who may have put it in motion is, in my opinion, much less problematical, if the accounts of the proceedings of the insurgents, and the hourly increase to their numbers, are not mere inventions of officials who are perfectly aware of the responsibility that would attach to them for propagating false news.

I believe that, even should a perfect understanding now arise between those, other than the natives, who are at the bottom of the movement, it would still be very difficult to stifle it without the employment of force by the Austrian Government. The time when a single word of command from the instigators of the movement might have been sufficient has gone by, as it cannot be presumed that the Austrian Government would consent to a retrogression, which would give its rule in the occupied provinces an impress of utter weakness.

Within the last few days a body of upwards of forty insurgents belonging to Mostar, and a third of whom are Mahommedans, broke through the Montenegrin cordon and sought refuge from a pursuing force over the frontier near Niksić. The insurgents were immediately disarmed, but I understand the Montenegrin Government hesitates to send them back over the borders until it has the promise of the Austrian Government that the men will be pardoned and not molested. Under such conditions, it is not likely that the Austrian troops will be in a better position to cope with the insurrection than were the Turks in 1875-76, when Dalmatia and Montenegro frequently offered timely shelter to defeated bands.

It is evident that, by the large increase to the Austrian military force in the occupied provinces and the Bocche di Cattaro, now being made, serious action is contemplated, as soon as the season is a little more advanced, and I feel that it will then be found that, notwithstanding all the good intentions of the Prince of Montenegro, and the disclaimers that will be forthcoming both from Constantinople and St. Petersburgh, troubles and difficulties will arise which it will be almost impossible to restrict within the Austro-Hungarian borders.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 72.

Consul Freeman to Earl Granville.—(*Received February* 8.)

(No. 5.)

My Lord, *Serajevo, February* 2, 1882.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 4 of the 27th ultimo, regarding the disturbances in this province, I have the honour now to furnish your Lordship with certain details which have lately come to my knowledge, and which serve to show the spirit that animates the population.

At Rogatica, in the Department (Kreis) of Serajevo, the Mussulman Mukhtar and the Christian Kodjabashi, Chiefs of their respective communities, having been imprisoned for their hostile attitude as regards the law of conscription, the inhabitants rose *en masse* about twenty days ago and demanded their release. The troops were called out to disperse the people, but this only served further to infuriate them, and the Bezirkshauptmann, seeing that matters were becoming serious, and having but few troops at his disposal—one company, I believe—refrained from employing extreme measures. The mob then broke into the prison and liberated the imprisoned men, after which it appears to have dispersed without further tumult.

At Cajnica, also in the Department of Serajevo, a riotous demonstration was made about ten days since by the Mussulmans of the district, who appeared in large numbers before the residence of the Bezirkshauptmann, asking by what right they had been called on to render military service to Austria. "Show us," they said, "the Firman of the Sultan authorizing the conscription, show us the Firman authorizing you to occupy our country, and then, but not before, will we submit." The troops were likewise in this instance called out, when several of the leaders stepped forward and shouted, "Give us arms, and we are ready to fight, we are not afraid; but no, you disarm us, and then want to shoot us down like dogs;" and then, baring their breasts, they exclaimed, "Fire! fire! we will show you how Bosniacs can die."

A deputation from the Christian population about the same time waited on the Bezirkshauptmann and spoke in the following sense:—

"You ask us to furnish troops when we are in the same state of slavery as under the Turkish Government; but that we will never do. Settle the agrarian question, give us our lands and our houses, and we will then furnish, not 1,200, as now required, but as many thousand."

I hear that in the Herzegovina a similar demand has been made, and it is even thought that this step has been suggested to them by the Austrians themselves, so as to cause a schism between the Mussulmans and Christians, and thus facilitate the work of pacification.

On Monday last a detachment of troops was fired on in the district of Trnova, about 12 miles from this, by a body of insurgents lying in ambush. Two officers—Captains—were dangerously wounded, one of whom is since dead, and two privates were killed and seven wounded. The troops returned the fire, but the insurgents, after the first discharge, retreated to the hills.

I would respectfully beg to remind your Lordship that, owing to the secrecy practised by all Austrian officials, civil as well as military, it is exceedingly difficult to obtain information of what occurs, even in the vicinity of this town. I can only, therefore, recount events as they come to my knowledge, without regard to chronological order, and frequently in ignorance of their exact dates, and I only report occurrences of the truth of which I am thoroughly satisfied.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWD. B. FREEMAN.

No. 73.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received February 10.)

(No. 49.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, January 27, 1882.*

WITH reference to my despatch to your Lordship No. 1050 of the 25th November last respecting the Christian merchants of Janina imprisoned at Constantinople, I have the honour to state that I have brought their case to the notice of the Prime Minister, and pointed out to him the excessive nature of the sentence which has been passed on them.

Said Pasha informed me in reply that the affair was now in the hands of the Council of Ministers, and that the Minister of War was pressing for the execution of the sentence of the Military Court. His Highness added that, personally, he was opposed to the carrying out of the sentence, and promised that he would do his best to persuade his colleagues to adopt the same view.

In the meantime, I have addressed a Circular letter to my colleagues, drawing attention to the risk these unfortunate people run through the obstinacy of the Minister of War of undergoing a sentence which is manifestly out of proportion to their offence, and which has been admitted to be so by the Prime Minister and the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 74.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received February 10, 11·30 P.M.)

(No. 50.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, February 10, 1882, 9·45 P.M.*

MINISTER for Foreign Affairs begs your Lordship to exercise your generous influence with the Russian Government, who are requiring the Lazes, if they wish to emigrate, to leave Batoum before the 14th of this month. No preparations have been made in Turkey for their reception, and, were they to arrive on the coast at this inclement season, they would be exposed to great suffering. See Mr. Biliotti's despatch No. 1 of the 5th instant.

The Porte hopes the British Government will induce the Russian Government to prolong the time of grace accorded to these people.

No. 75.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 66. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, February 10, 1882.*

IN your despatch No. 16 of the 25th ultimo you state that an impression is said to exist at the Austrian Embassy at Constantinople that the insurrection in the Herzegovina has been actively encouraged by a member of the Liberal party in this country. I should be glad if your Excellency could let me know the name of the person alluded to.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 76.

E *Sir E. Thornton to Earl Granville.—(Received February 14.)*

(No. 55.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, February 7, 1882.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that M. Aksakow's paper, the "Russ," contains in its issue of the 31st January/12th February last a violent article against Austria, with reference to events now passing in Bosnia and the Herzegovina. Moderate organs of the Russian press, such as the "Golos," express great dissatisfaction at the whole tone and tenour of the article, which the latter newspaper says is really a manifesto of war in favour of the Slavs and against the enemies of the Slav races. The following are the more striking portions of M. Aksakow's article:—

"Austrian regiments are poured one after another into the Balkan Peninsula, for the purpose of finally destroying the stronghold of the Slav spirit, and crushing Slav genius and nationality. The Austrian campaign against the Krivoshians, Herzegovinese, Bosniaks, and indirectly against Montenegro, is really a campaign against ourselves.

"Every drop of Slavonian blood spilt falls on our own souls, is a stain on ourselves, and calls for vengeance.

"We already hear the soft approach of that wave which at the present it is hardly desirable to see overwhelming the embankment; we are even now obliged to keep young impulses in check. The Russian Government, we imagine, has no other means of averting the irregular manifestation of its people in favour of the struggling Bosniaks and Herzegovinese than by placing itself at the head of this manifestation, and by directing her diplomacy in a corresponding direction."

The agitation now initiated by the "Russ" in favour of the Slavs of the Balkan Peninsula excites the serious apprehension of the "Golos," which, in a leading article devoted to the subject in its issue of the 2nd February last, points out that Russia drifted into its last war with Turkey owing to the same Slavophil agitation, and strongly protests against such artificial political simulation, which it declares is contrary to the true interests of Russia. These, it asserts, require a strict observance of peace and a steady devotion on the part of the Imperial Government to the task of ameliorating the internal condition of the country.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWD. THORNTON.

No. 77.

E *The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received February 12.)*

(No. 79.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, February 6, 1882.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 1127 of the 20th December last, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith copy of the reply of the Ottoman Minister for Foreign Affairs to the identic note addressed to his Excellency by the Representatives of the Six Great Powers, on the subject of the Circular recently issued by the Sublime Porte to the provincial authorities as to the ceremonial to be observed by them towards foreign officials.

I will not fail to address your Lordship further on the subject of this note after I have had the opportunity of discussing it with my colleagues.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 77.

Assim Pasha to the Earl of Dufferin.

(Circulaire.)

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Ministère des Affaires Etrangères, le 2 Février*, 1882.

J'AI reçu la note que votre Excellence m'a fait l'honneur de m'adresser le 19 Décembre, 1881, relativement au cérémonial à observer à l'égard des Consuls étrangers et des Chefs de Mission en voyage dans l'Empire. Dans cette note votre Excellence veut bien constater que plusieurs des dispositions contenues dans la Circulaire de la Sublime Porte, en date du 24 Septembre précédent, se trouvent en opposition avec les Traités, les Capitulations, et les usages, et demande, par conséquent, que les prescriptions de cette Circulaire ne soient pas mises en application.

Je regrette de ne pouvoir m'associer à la manière dont la décision de la Sublime Porte en cette circonstance est envisagée par la plupart de MM. les Chefs de Mission. Un examen attentif des Traités et des Capitulations nous a conduits à la conclusion qu'ils n'apportent aucune restriction à notre droit de conformer notre conduite à celle des États Européens en matière de cérémonial.

En raison de la variété infinie de procédés dont aucune n'exprime la volonté d'une autorité morale formulant une règle de droit pour un ensemble de rapports déterminés, le Gouvernement Impérial ignore les usages auxquels votre Excellence veut bien faire allusion. Il peut, cependant, affirmer que si des actes opposés à ce qui se pratique partout ailleurs se sont produits parfois, ils ne remplissent point les conditions générales indispensables pour avoir un caractère obligatoire. Des procédés dérogatoires qui reposent sur de si faibles données, et qui sont sujets à de continuelles vicissitudes ne sauraient évidemment servir de base à un *statu quo* légal et régulier, si tant est qu'il en existe.

La Sublime Porte croit devoir, par conséquent, maintenir dans leur intégralité les dispositions de la Circulaire dont il s'agit. Je serais reconnaissant à votre Excellence de vouloir bien donner à qui de droit les instructions les plus propres à prévenir tout malentendu à cet égard.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) M. ASSIM.

No. 78.

Consul St. John to Earl Granville.—(Received February 13.)

(No. 5.)

My Lord, *Ragusa, January 23*, 1882.

ACCORDING to the Vienna correspondent of the "Times," the actual extent of the military measures in Dalmatia and Herzegovina is now become known, and, therefore, need cause no alarm; the character of the measures being rather of precaution than of action, and the sending of troops an annual occurrence for the relief of the garrisons in Dalmatia and the occupied provinces. Such, however, is far from being the case. The insurrection in Crivoscia has now spread into Herzegovina, where, unless speedily quelled, of which there appears little prospect, it may take formidable proportions. General Jovanovich, the new Governor of Dalmatia, who commands the troops in Southern Herzegovina, came to see me yesterday. He appeared much depressed at the aspect of affairs, and complained to me of the difficult task his predecessor, General Rodich, had bequeathed to him; adding that he would far rather be engaged in a regular campaign than in suppressing an insurrection among a people whom he designated as a set of rebellious brigands, whose mode of warfare was to shoot down the military from behind rocks. For some time past, in the Herzegovina as well as in the mountain districts of Southern Dalmatia, a spirit of discontentment has been clearly discernible. From the very first the occupation was unpopular; and ever since rumours, which I reported in 1879, have been current that the administration, as there carried on, would sooner or later lead to insurrection and an attempt to shake off Austrian domination. Putting aside political aspirations continually kept at fever heat by outside influence, the inhabitants of the occupied provinces have some reason for being discontented; and it is a matter of surprise that it should have been so little understood at Vienna. Now the inference is here drawn that the Government must either have been kept in ignorance of the real state of affairs, or that it always entertained a latent desire to bring things to a crisis, with the view some day, for the fulfilment of ambitous projects, to being compelled by force of circumstances to concentrate an army on the Turkish frontier. Whether any plausible reason or not exists for such a surmise, it is an indisputable fact that the present insurrection has been long foreseen, and if not brought about, at all events precipitated, by injudicious administration and the attempted enforcement of the new Military Law.

With regard to the maladministration complained of, its origin may be traced to impecuniosity. When Austria was called upon to rule, after a somewhat expensive struggle for occupation, she adopted the short-sighted policy of carrying out her engagement at the lowest possible cost. To do this she was either unwilling or unable to send out a well-paid and efficient staff, and consequently recruited her officials from among those whose promotion in the public service at home was, to say the least, doubtful; and from outsiders possessing no experience and totally unfitted, by reason of their miserable salary and consequent venality, for administrating a country where, corruption having existed so long under Turkish rule, ability and integrity were requisite, and should have been secured at any price. As far as we know, the rising in the Herzegovina is confined to the Mussulman population. These for some time past have been desirous to leave the country; but the Turkish Government throw obstacles in their way, and refuse to receive them, the avowed reason being that there exist already in Turkey more refugees than can be provided for, of which we have sufficient proof. Another version is a wish, for obvious reasons, on the part of the Turkish Government, that these provinces should not be altogether denuded of the element that represents their interests. Restrictions to emigration being imposed on the wealthy as well as the impecunious, and the present insurrection having broken out among the Mussulman population, leads me to place confidence in the information I have received on the point from the best source at hand. Though, as I have above stated, the insurrection is confined to the Mussulman population, there is every reason to believe that it will not be long before the Christians make common cause with them. Indeed, rumours to that effect are now current, and also that money is being distributed by the Turkish Begs. It would be interesting to know, should the Austrians be worsted, of which there is not much probability, whether the Christians and Mussulmans would then still continue to make common cause. It is said that the Mussulman population is rebelling without the slightest hope of success, but simply from a spirit of fanaticism and hatred towards the ruling Power. No doubt they will be overmatched by numbers; but the regiments sent to oppose them are composed of raw recruits, mere boys, who will be fearfully cut to pieces when they come to a hand-to-hand engagement with a set of hardy and desperate mountaineers on their own ground.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. ST. JOHN.

No. 79.

Consul St. John to Earl Granville.—(Received February 13.)

(No. 6.)

My Lord, *Ragusa, January 24*, 1882.

IT is reported that several encounters have taken place in the Herzegovina between the military and the insurgents, in which some twenty of the former have been killed or wounded and a number of the latter taken prisoners; but reliable details of passing events it is impossible to obtain, as the military authorities make it a point not to divulge any information whatsoever, and the public here, therefore, is left completely in the dark, though at so short a distance from the scene of action.

There is no reason to suppose, however, that because a few skirmishes have taken place, operations will be undertaken before the arrival of reinforcements, the number of which must in a great measure depend on the sum voted for that purpose by the Delegation convoked for the 28th instant, when, I hear, the Government will be severely attacked by the Dalmatian Deputies for introducing the new Military Law into these provinces.

In the meantime, troops, military stores, and munitions of war are being landed along the coast, and sent to the interior, where, for the present, military operations will be confined only to the maintenance of public security and the prevention of brigandage; the

greatest care being taken, at the same time, not to provoke, and thereby to precipitate, hostilities.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. ST. JOHN.

No. 80.

Consul St. John to Earl Granville.—(Received February 13.)

(No. 7.)
My Lord, *Ragusa, January 28, 1882.*

GENERAL JOVANOVICH informed me two days ago that the aspect of affairs in Herzegovina looked a little more hopeful. This statement, however, offers a wide field for speculation, and may mean anything. That some fighting has been going on in the vicinity of Trebinje there can be no doubt, as wounded have arrived, and wreaths of flowers have been sent from here for the dead. But both the military authorities and the Vienna semi-official journals seem anxious that too great importance should not be attached to the actual state of affairs in Southern Dalmatia and the neighbouring province. The Delegations meet to-day at Vienna for the purpose of voting the necessary sum for carrying on operations, the dimensions of which will much depend on the amount obtained. Until then it is probably thought desirable to keep things quiet and not prematurely to precipitate matters by provoking a, so far, partial insurrection into a general one, which the arrival of a large number of troops would be sure to bring about. Precautionary measures for possible eventualities are being actively carried on. General Jovanovich makes this his head-quarters, and has on his staff two Generals and three Colonels. Horses and mules are being purchased, provisions and munitions of war arrive by every mail-steamer, and extra precautions are being taken for the security of the town of Ragusa, where rifled guns are being mounted, intended to command the Trebinje road. In the meantime, in Southern Dalmatia, the Crivosciens still defy the Austrian Empire, and in Herzegovina bands of insurgents waylay detachments of troops, cut telegraph wires, and commit acts of brigandage. The block-houses left by the Turks are being repaired and fortified, and the civil functionaries, distributed all over the country, are compelled to seek safety in the garrison towns. The attitude of Montenegro also gives rise to speculations. Will the Prince, whose family, by-the-bye, has been sent to Antivari, be allowed to fulfil loyally his obligations to Austria? He may be sincere, but is position is a difficult one, for his subjects are attached by strong ties of consanguinity to the Crivosciens and Herzegovinians, and may be less scrupulous. M. Yonine, the Russian Minister for Montenegro, whose knowledge of affairs in these countries is unsurpassed, informed me that his fears for the future of Montenegro were never greater than at this moment. It is natural, therefore, that the next move by Austria should be looked upon with intense interest.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. ST. JOHN.

No. 81.

E *Mr. Locock to Earl Granville.—(Received February 13.)*

(No. 14.)
My Lord, *Belgrade, January 27, 1882.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship a translation kindly furnished me by my Turkish colleague of extracts from an article in the "Pester Lloyd" to which his attention had been drawn a few days ago, on the subject of the connection between the insurrection in the Herzegovina and certain parties in Servia.

The article pretends that it is chiefly at Belgrade that the conspiracy against Austria is conducted; that its prime movers there are Ristitch and the ex-Metropolitan; that it is time to finish with the two Principalities of Montenegro and Servia; that with regard to Servia it is true that Prince Milan and his Ministers rightly understand the interests of their country, and for this reason alone seek to cultivate friendly relations with Austria-Hungary; but that the question is, have they the power to put their good intentions into practice and to resist the pressure put on them by the Opposition, and if not, can Austria-Hungary remain an indifferent spectator of flagrant interference in the internal affairs of the Monarchy? The article goes on to observe that it will be easy to isolate Montenegro if once assured of Servia; that the

centre of the situation is Belgrade; that if Prince Milan's Government is powerless Austria will have to ask herself whether it is not her duty to prevent on her borders an anarchy which may prevent her performing the mandate of the Berlin Congress. "Let us oppose" (thus it terminates) "open force to a perfidious policy, and brush off its teazing stings with an iron hand."

Being desirous of ascertaining whether the article in question had an official source, I at once inquired of Count Khevenhüller, the Austrian Envoy here, who had recently returned from Vienna, what news he had from the neighbouring provinces, and how the Servians were behaving. He at once gave me the same assurances which he had on a previous occasion expressed to me, that Prince Milan and his Government were acting in a perfectly loyal manner towards Austria; that he knew there was certain aid being supplied in money, and that the authorities did not always succeed in preventing individuals, chiefly natives from Bosnia, from crossing the frontier for the express purpose of swelling the ranks of the insurgents; but that owing to the nature of the country, it could not well be otherwise, and, on the whole, he had no reason to feel dissatisfied with the measures taken to secure the neutrality of the Servians.

I may also mention to your Lordship that in the course of conversation this evening with the Minister of Finance, I learnt from his Excellency that Count Khevenhüller had also told him two or three days ago that the articles in the "Pester Lloyd" did not represent the feelings or designs of his Government, who were perfectly convinced of the loyal character and proceedings of the Servian Government, and of their determination to prevent any proceedings inconsistent with their duties as a friendly neighbouring State.

I have, &c.
(Signed) SIDNEY LOCOCK.

No. 82.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received February 13.)

(No. 1.)
My Lord, *Salonica, January 31, 1882.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for the information of your Lordship, copy of a despatch which I have addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople relative to the improved state of affairs at Prisrend and other districts in Upper Albania.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 82.

Consul-General Blunt to the Earl of Dufferin.

(Confidential.)
My Lord, *Salonica, January 28, 1882.*

MY Austro-Hungarian colleague, M. de Montlong, during a visit he paid me yesterday morning, told me, in the course of conversation, that his Vice-Consul at Prisrend had recently reported to him that the state of affairs in that and other districts in Upper Albania was improving, and that the agitation which prevailed having entirely subsided, the country was enjoying some degree of order and tranquillity.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 83.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received February 13.)

(No. 2.)
My Lord, *Salonica, January 31, 1882.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that his Excellency Dervish Pasha arrived in Salonica from the interior on the 13th instant, and, as is customary on such occasions, was met on his arrival here by a large concourse of people, consisting of all the Government functionaries, civil and military, the religious heads

of the non-Mussulman communities, and such private individuals of position as considered it incumbent on them to welcome him on his return to the capital of the province. His Excellency had a very cordial reception, at which he evinced great satisfaction, and of which he has since expressed his appreciation by conferring decorations and other distinctions on some of the Notables of the place.

On the morning of the 16th instant an official reception was held by Dervish Pasha at the Government House, where several addresses were presented to him on the part of the local communities, and hymns of welcome sung by the school children. His Excellency had previously addressed his audience in a long speech, which was listened to with marked attention and respect, and warmly applauded at its close, and of which I inclose an account by Mr. Assistant Richards, who was present on the occasion at my request.

It appears, from all that I have been able to gather, that the Pasha has met everywhere during his late tour in the interior with a similar cordial reception, and was greeted with manifestations of loyalty to the Sultan.

I inclose an account of his visit to Castoria.

The unvarying kindness and condescension with which he has treated all alike, the marked notice he took of the religious heads of the Christian communities, the speeches he made to the people on the subject of religious and political equality, and the assurances he gave of the Sultan's constant solicitude for the welfare of all classes of the inhabitants, have produced a very good impression, and the hope that serious efforts will be made to restore quiet and security in the country.

In a conversation which I have had with his Excellency he informed me that he had visited the following places: Usenp, Kinpruli-Veles, Prilep, Monastir, Ochrida, Castoria, Korytza (Gjortcha), Vodina, Niausta, Caraferia, and Yenidjeh-Vardar; and that on the whole he was satisfied that there were no signs of any serious disaffection among the inhabitants; but he frankly admitted that the continued state of brigandage formed a subject of general complaint.

Although in the speeches which he delivered here the early suppression of this evil was the subject he invariably dwelt upon, I regret to say that so far no special measures have been taken in that direction, and robber bands continue to roam about and commit depredations and outrages in most of the districts of Macedonia, as also in Epirus.

In one case of brigandage, however, Dervish Pasha's action has been successful. Upon my Austro-Hungarian colleague complaining to him that the local authorities had been remiss in taking the necessary steps to effect the release of the Hungarian, M. Adamo, who was captured in the vicinity of Caterina more than three months ago by a band of brigands, his Excellency at once telegraphed to the Sub-Governor of that district that unless the captive was promptly rescued he would hold him, the Sub-Governor, directly responsible for the consequences. On the receipt of this telegram the Sub-Governor obtained information as to the exact whereabouts of the band in question, and guided by his informant, made a sudden attack on the brigand camp, put to flight its panic-stricken occupants, and rescued M. Adamo.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 83.

Mr. Richards to Consul-General Blunt.

Sir, *Salonica, January* 10, 1882.

IN accordance with your instructions, I repaired to the Government House on the morning of the 16th instant, in order to be present, though in an unofficial and private capacity, at the public reception given to his Excellency Dervish Pasha on the occasion of his return from the interior, and to listen to and report on the speech which he was expected to make. I beg, Sir, to submit the following as the sum and substance of the remarks made by his Excellency on this occasion, merely premising that, owing, unfortunately, to my being at some little distance from the speaker, I was unable to follow him throughout.

After a warm acknowledgment of the deep debt of gratitude he owed His Majesty the Sultan for the cordial support so graciously accorded him throughout the arduous undertaking in Albania which he had lately been fortunate enough to bring to a successful termination, he proceeded to announce his appointment as Inspector-

General of the four Vilayets of Salonica, Cossova, Monastir, and Janina, in which capacity he hoped to do all that lay within his power to promote the prosperity and welfare of the country. He then made sundry moral reflections relative to the different points of distinction which separate man from the rest of the animal creation; and went on to speak about the urgent need of a feeling of security, showing how indispensable it is to man in the performance of the common functions of every-day life. He deplored the want of security for life and property in Macedonia, and declared that the Government was doing its best to put down with a strong hand the crying evil of brigandage, so rife at present; but at the same time he assured his hearers that, unless the people co-operated with the Government and gave its functionaries, military and civil, every assistance in its power for the furtherance of this object, their very best and most strenuous efforts would be in vain. He pointed out that if the inhabitants of Macedonia refused food and shelter to any one whom they suspected of being a brigand, it would soon be a comparatively easy task to pursue and finally capture all who are at present engaged in this nefarious occupation. Even here in Salonica it was a notorious fact that brigands had been hiding in wine-shops and other such places with the full cognizance, if not encouragement, of the proprietors. His Excellency repeatedly impressed on his hearers the necessity of co-operation between the Government and the people in order to insure the suppression and eradication of brigandage. He went on to say that it had become necessary to institute a system of guarantee in a regular descending scale from the highest civil functionaries in the vilayet down to the village Prefects, superintendents of farm buildings, and finally, the rural police; that every official would in this way give bail for the proper and efficient performance of his duties and the prevention of brigandage in so far as in him lay, and so a chain of personal responsibility would be established of which every official, from the highest to the lowest, would form one of the connecting links. For the superintendence in detail and general putting into execution of this scheme, a Council would be instituted in the head-quarters of the vilayet, whose duties would be to see that in no case would there be any shirking of this responsibility. He begged that, in future, any one who was in possession of positive information as to the whereabouts of a band of brigands, or who had reason to believe that an attack was projected against any village, body of men, or single individual, he would, without a moment's delay, impart this information or give this warning to the nearest authorities, or to a Consul of a foreign Power. That it was only thus that brigandage could eventually be stamped out. After a few remarks of an encouraging nature his Excellency reminded his audience that he was a native of Salonica himself, and that he had the welfare of the country at heart, and that, therefore, they might be sure that he would do everything in his power to promote the well-being and prosperity of Macedonia and its people; but that they, as he had previously told them, must co-operate with him in order to secure this desirable end. He then offered up a prayer for His Imperial Majesty the Sultan, which brought the speech to a conclusion.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. S. RICHARDS.

Inclosure 2 in No. 83.

Extract from a Letter from a Correspondent at Castoria, dated December 25, 1881. January 4, 1882.

(Translation.)

THE other day our town donned its holiday garb on the occasion of the arrival of his Excellency Dervish Pasha, who was received with exceptionally great honours. His Excellency, as soon as he arrived, summoned to his presence the principal citizens of the town, both Mussalmans and Christians, and also the Notables of the neighbouring villages, and gave them a very kind reception. He subsequently addressed his audience in the courtyard, in a speech which lasted nearly two hours, on the subject of equality, social and political. He announced in most emphatic language that tribal and religious distinction no longer exists, but that all men are equal before the law, and all are equally the object of the paternal love and solicitude of His Imperial Majesty the Sultan, who loves his people. He bade all men love each other, and busy themselves in their respective avocations, by following which line of conduct they might expect many benefits in the future. His speech excited everywhere considerable interest and attention. His Excellency paid a visit yesterday to our Bishop. This visit delighted exceedingly the Christians by its condescension, indeed they (*i.e.*, the Christians) are

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enthusiastic in their praises of Dervish Pasha's kindness, and of the brilliant eloquence of his speech. To day he distributed decorations as follows: to the Kaimakam, an order of a high grade; to Veliour Bey, and Aïdin Bey decorations of the fourth grade; and to Tchata and Shraska (Christians), decorations of the fifth grade.

No. 84.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(*Received February* 13.)

(No. 45. Extender.)

My Lord, *Vienna, February* 6, 1882.

THE credit of 8,000,000 florins demanded by the Government for the suppression of the movement in the Herzegovina has been sanctioned by the Delegations of each of the divisions of the Monarchy without a division, but not without some bitter criticism both on the original policy of the occupation and on the manner in which the administration of the province has since been conducted.

The defence of the occupation was, as I have already informed your Lordship, undertaken by Count Andrássy, while M. Szlavy, the Common Finance Minister, who is charged with the administration of the occupied districts, took the principal part in justifying the course that had been followed in them by the Government.

The reproaches that were directed against the Administration were of the most various and contradictory nature.

On the one side, the Government were accused of not being sufficiently on their guard against Panslavism, and on the other, that they had not taken the Slav element into account, an attempt to Germanize the provinces being attributed to them by some members, or to Magyarize them according to others.

The Minister disposed of these latter accusations by stating that of the 740 officials employed in Bosnia and the Herzegovina, above 600 were Slavs, against about 100 Germans and 5 of his own Hungarian countrymen.

Nothing can be gathered from the discussion respecting the numbers who are supposed to be taking part in the insurrection, and the Minister plainly declared that he was unable to give any information upon that head.

Equal uncertainty prevails as to the classes who have principally joined in it, and your Lordship will not have failed to observe the difference upon that point between the reports of Mr. St. John from Ragusa, and of Mr. Freeman from Bosna-Serai, the information received by the one leading him to think the insurgents to be composed principally of Mussulmans, while the other believes these only to have joined the movement when forced to do so by armed bands.

I have been unable to ascertain how this matter stands, as the answers I have received to inquiries put to persons likely to be equally well informed have been very contradictory.

The Minister of Finance stated in his speech that in the occupied provinces there were about 200,000 Roman Catholics, 500,000 Mussulmans, and 1,200,000 Orthodox inhabitants. The proportion of the two first is the greatest in Bosnia, which remains quiet, while those of the Orthodox faith are in immense superiority in the southern parts of the Herzegovina.

It may probably be assumed that the present demand of the Government for money may have a wholesome effect upon the minds of the party which might be inclined to a policy of further extension, which is, however, numerically small, consisting for the most part of military men of Slav nationality, recruited with a few of their civilian countrymen.

I have frequently stated to your Lordship that the occupation was never popular in this country, and it will not be made so by this evidence of the sacrifices it entails.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 85.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(*Received February* 13.)

(No. 52. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Vienna, February* 8, 1882.

I HAD this afternoon a confidential conversation with M. Szlavy, the Minister intrusted with the administration of Bosnia and the Herzegovina, and I inquired whether he could tell me anything of the class of persons engaged in the present insurrection.

He said that it was a point which he was himself most desirous of ascertaining, though his own belief was that by far the greater proportion of the bands were composed of the unruly strangers from Montenegro and Servia, who had for centuries been accustomed to a lawless life, and to whom submission to any authority was repugnant.

They, and those who joined them, wished to obtain possession of the soil without contributing either taxes to the Treasury or men for the army; there were, he thought, few Mahommedans among them, and only those who had been compelled by threats to do so.

The incidents reported to your Lordship by Mr. Consul Freeman in his despatch No. 5 he treated as entirely local and of no importance.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 86.

Assim Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(*Communicated to Earl Granville by Musurus Pasha, February* 14.)

E

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Sublime Porte, le 2 Février*, 1882.

UNE correspondance vient d'être échangée entre MM. les Représentants des Puissances à Constantinople et moi par rapport au cérémonial à observer à l'égard des Consuls étrangers et des chefs de mission en voyage dans l'Empire. La Sublime Porte ayant décidé de conformer en cela la conduite de nos autorités provinciales à ce qui se pratique dans les autres États Européens, la plupart de MM. les Représentants étrangers ont cru pouvoir s'opposer à cette résolution en vertu de je ne sais quelles dispositions des Traités, des Capitulations, et demander la continuation d'actes qui procéderaient d'un régime basé sur les usages. Je n'ai pas manqué de combattre cette argumentation et d'établir toute la légalité d'une résolution qui, conforme au droit commun et au principe d'uniformité découlant de l'Article 5 du Règlement élaboré par le Congrès de Vienne le 19 Mars, 1815, doit être considéré comme l'expression fidèle de la manière de penser et d'agir des Puissances Européennes.

J'ai l'honneur de vous transmettre ci-joint copie des pièces qui forment la dite correspondance. Votre Excellence voudra bien faire valoir nos arguments auprès du Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique, et provoquer l'envoi à son Représentant à Constantinople d'instructions propres à écarter une opposition que rien ne justifie.

Veuillez, &c.

(Signé) M. ASSIM.

Inclosure in No. 86.

Article VIII of the Treaty of Peace and Commerce between Great Britain and the Sublime Porte, concluded at the Dardanelles January 5, 1809.

IL sera permis de nommer des "Shahbenders" (Consuls) à Malte et dans les États de Sa Majesté Britannique, où il sera nécessaire pour gérer et inspecter les affaires et les intérêts des négociants de la Sublime Porte, et les mêmes traitements et immunités qui sont pratiqués envers les Consuls d'Angleterre résidant dans les États Ottomans seront exactement observés envers les "Shahbenders" de la Sublime Porte.

CONSULS ("Shahbenders?") may be appointed at Malta and in the dominions of His Britannic Majesty where it shall be necessary to manage and superintend the affairs and interests of merchants of the Sublime Porte, and similar privileges and immunities to those granted to English Consuls resident in the Ottoman dominions shall be duly afforded to the "Shahbenders" of the Sublime Porte.

No. 87.

Consul Freeman to Earl Granville.—(Received February 18.)

(No. 6. Political.)
My Lord, *Serajevo, February 11, 1882.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 5, Political, of the 2nd instant, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that, according to the most recent intelligence, the insurgents are now concentrating their forces in the district of Trnova, in the Department of Serajevo. Even those bands hitherto frequenting the Herzegovina appear to have fallen back towards Bosnia, and a large force, estimated at above 1,500, which since the beginning of the month had been threatening Foca, on the Drina, and with whom the Austrian troops had had several encounters, have likewise withdrawn from that neighbourhood. The object of this movement is not as yet clear, but it seems probable that the intention is to move by way of the Vitez Planina towards the Servian frontier, and endeavour to raise the population in that direction. I have heard it stated, however, that they hope to create disturbances in the immediate neighbourhood, and even in the very town of Serajevo, and the Austrians have taken precautions against a surprise. Insurgents, however, even now make occasional raids and carry off cattle from villages not 5 miles from the town, and a few days ago two native gendarmes and eleven soldiers, who were sent to collect a few peasants to work on the Trnova road, were massacred between Kievo and Presjenica, about 8 miles from this.

There is no doubt that the insurgents are showing a much bolder front than they ever did against the Turks. There are two reasons for this. Formerly the Christian insurgents were afraid of the Mussulman population, which was armed, and always sided with the Government. Now, on the contrary, the Mahommedans, if they do not always join the insurrection, are not generally hostile to it, nor have they arms even if they have the desire to oppose their Christian fellow-countrymen. Secondly, it is an undoubted fact that the Bosnians, Christians and Mussulmans alike, have not the same fear of Austrian as they had of Turkish troops.

It is said that in the Herzegovina the insurgents are already rather disconcerted at not having received the assistance in the way of money, arms, and ammunition promised them by foreign agents. If all such assistance fail them the revolt, as I have said in my former despatches, can scarcely be of long duration or assume serious proportions.

Troops continue to arrive daily in the country, and by the calling out of a portion of the Reserve, the companies will be brought up, I believe, to a strength of 160 men, which will give a total strength of nearly 2,000 men per regiment.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDW^D B. FREEMAN.

No. 88.

Consul St. John to Earl Granville.—(Received February 20.)

(No. 8.)
My Lord; *Ragusa, February 4, 1882.*

IT is possible that the many newspaper correspondents now at Ragusa may find abundant sensational matter to telegraph and write upon; but, owing to a desire on the part of the Government to minimize in the eyes of the world the critical state of affairs in these parts, and the consequent extreme reticence of the civil and military authorities, it is very difficult to obtain trustworthy information, especially as persons, either native or foreign, making inquiries, are looked upon with suspicion. The public at large, therefore, have to put up with such information as suits the Government to impart. But intelligence received under such circumstances is not calculated to satisfy those watching events close at hand, who look upon the present state of Southern Dalmatia and the neighbouring provinces as portentous, and threatening to the future of Austria and the peace of Europe. There can be no doubt that the insurrectionary movement is now spreading, and I have good reason for stating that it is encouraged and assisted by Panslavist Committees. At one time a hope was entertained that an arrangement might be effected by which peace would have been restored, but the conditions put forward by the insurgents were unacceptable at Vienna. These were: a complete amnesty; the non-enforcements of the new military

law, and the withdrawal of the tobacco monopoly. Since then gendarmes have been massacred and horribly mutilated, and troops compelled to retreat. Until lately the insurrection was confined to Crivoscie and that part of Herzegovina bordering on Montenegro. Now it has spread to Northern Herzegovina, where 5,000 insurgents are said to be fully resolved not to accept any compromise, but to fight it out to the last. It is also reported that the town of Konitza has been burnt, and communication cut off between Mostar and Serajevo. General Ivanovitch left yesterday for the newly disaffected district. This morning a large steamer with troops intended for Ragusa was, on its arrival from Trieste, at once sent after him. The military force in the Herzegovina is now estimated at 25,000 strong, but General Ivanovitch asks for 40,000 more, without which he refuses to undertake the suppression of the insurrection. It is much commented upon that not only a Slav Commander-in-chief should have been selected to fight Slavs, but also that all the regiments hitherto sent for that purpose should likewise be Slav. This probably gave rise to a rumour, which as yet I have not heard contradicted, that during some of the late engagements soldiers have gone over to the enemy, a fact which of course requires confirmation, but, nevertheless, would not be impossible, considering that they are of the same race and religion, speak the same language, and certainly entertain the same political aspirations.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. ST. JOHN.

No. 89.

Consul St. John to Earl Granville.—(Received February 20.)

(No. 9.)
My Lord, *Ragusa, February 6, 1882.*

IN former despatches I alluded to the mischief caused by Mr. Arthur Evans' correspondence to the "Manchester Guardian," and I now have to bring to your Lordship's notice the growing ill-feeling that exists among the Austrian military towards the English, which I attribute in a great measure to that gentleman's repeated attacks on Austrian administration.

This feeling is now unfortunately enhanced by false statements, that from time to time appear in the Austrian papers, to the effect that money is being liberally distributed among the insurgents by English ladies, one of whom is supposed to be at Cettinjé, and another—a Miss Alice Hartley—in the Herzegovina. The result is that every Englishman coming out here, myself not excepted, is looked upon as a spy sent out by the Government to incite the insurgents and to assist them by a plentiful supply of English gold. As an instance, I may mention that two months ago Mr. George Paget, a son of Lord Alfred Paget, came here from Scutari along the coast, and wishing to return by another route more inland, consulted me on the subject. I referred him to the military authorities, who not only made no objection, but gave him letters of introduction. Nevertheless, his steps were dogged by the police and gendarmerie, and his arrival here gave rise to a lengthened telegraphic correspondence between the local civil authorities and the Austrian Government, by which it was at last settled that he must be a Mr. Paget, a nephew of the eminent surgeon of that name, well known, and for many years back established at Vienna as a merchant.

Mr. Arthur Evans has also been a victim to the ill-feeling which he has himself partly created; for on a return journey by steamer from the Italian frontier, where he had been, for the purpose of dispatching his correspondence to the "Manchester Guardian," he was cowardly insulted by some twelve or fourteen officers, by whom he was called a spy, and told that the present disturbances were due to English intrigues. Mr. Evans informed me that he remained quiet so long as the invectives hurled by these officers concerned him personally; but when he heard his country unjustly accused of fomenting disturbances for her own selfish designs he quite lost his head, and now cannot remember what he said in reply. The affair might have taken a serious turn, as one of the officers was on the point of drawing his sword.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. ST. JOHN.

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No. 90.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received February 20.)

(No. 83.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, February 10, 1882.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose the reply of the Porte to the note of the Powers relative to the disputed Turco-Greek frontier at Analypsis.

The contents of this reply were discussed yesterday by myself and my colleagues, and, inasmuch as the Ambassadors at Constantinople are not competent to modify or to depart from the majority principle recognized by the Convention as determining all these questions, we do not propose, until instructed by our Governments, to make any reply to the Porte's communication.

Some of my colleagues have learned upon good authority that the Ottoman Government is prepared to give way in respect to all the other disputed points along the line, and a belief seems to prevail that the matter had better be settled by the two interested Governments.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 90.

Assim Pasha to the Earl of Dufferin.

7 Février, 1882.

LE Soussigné, Ministre des Affaires Étrangères de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan, a reçu la note collective que leurs Excellences MM. les Ambassadeurs de France, d'Autriche-Hongrie, de la Grande-Bretagne, d'Italie, de Russie, et M. le Chargé d'Affaires d'Allemagne lui ont fait l'honneur de lui adresser le 30 Novembre dernier relativement à la partie du tracé de la nouvelle frontière Turco-Hellénique qui passe par le Mont Anatypsis.

Dans cette note leurs Excellences et M. le Chargé d'Affaires d'Allemagne, se basant sur la carte Autrichienne, déclarent ne pouvoir modifier la décision prise par la majorité de la Commission de Délimitation.

Qu'il soit permis au Soussigné de constater tout d'abord que ce que la Sublime Porte entend poursuivre, c'est l'obtention d'une ligne qui, appliquée sur le terrain, soit précisément conforme aux stipulations de la Convention du 24 Mai, 1881. Or, ainsi qu'il a été déjà établi dans la précédente note du Soussigné, l'Analypsis de la majorité, qui s'appelle aussi Palov-Oulako, ne remplit point les conditions exigées par la Convention sous le rapport des crêtes que le tracé doit suivre entre cette hauteur et le village de Nezeros, tandis que l'Analypsis du Commissaire Ottoman ne porte pas d'autre dénomination et satisfait parfaitement à ces conditions.

La situation du mont auquel la majorité s'est arrêtée peut correspondre à celle de la carte Autrichienne; mais ce fait ne devrait pas avoir une influence décisive sur MM. les Commissaires, qui, après avoir constaté sur les lieux plusieurs inexactitudes de la dite carte, ont déclaré dans le Protocole No. 12 qu'elle n'était qu'un assemblage d'itinéraires exécutés rapidement, qu'elle était nécessairement inexacte, et que son témoignage ne pouvait être invoqué. Et, en effet, la Commission a dû s'en écarter dans plus d'un cas, tel que, par exemple, celui du village de Velimisti, lequel, indiqué au nord de la crête, devait être laissé à la Turquie, tandis qu'il a été cédé à la Grèce après qu'il eût été constaté sur les lieux que ce village était situé au sud.

La Sublime Porte pense que les faits et les considérations qui précèdent militent en faveur de l'admission de sa demande basée sur les termes clairs et précis de la Convention.

En conséquence, le Gouvernement Impérial aime à espérer que MM. les Représentants des Six Puissances auront la bonté de donner à qui de droit les instructions nécessaires pour que le tracé dont il s'agit soit mis d'accord avec les indications de la Convention du 24 Mai, 1881.

Le Soussigné, &c. (Signé) M. ASSIM.

No. 91.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received February 20.)

(No. 84.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, February 10, 1882.*

IN accordance with the instructions contained in your despatch No. 23 of the 16th ultimo, I drew the notice of my colleagues to the difficulties which the Mussulman emigrants from Bulgaria met in obtaining an equitable settlement in regard to their real property, but none of the Ambassadors seemed to have had the matter brought to their attention, nor, indeed, did they evince any very great desire to enter upon the discussion of the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 92.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received February 20.)

E

(No. 89.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, February 10, 1882.*

THE Greek Minister had the honour of an audience with the Sultan on the 4th instant. M. Coundouriotis met with a very gracious reception, and he informed me that a mutual wish was expressed that the matters in dispute between the two Governments should be settled by direct negotiations, and not through the intervention of any foreign Power or Powers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 93.

Mr. Ford to Earl Granville.—(Received February 20.)

(No. 21. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Athens, February 10, 1882.*

IT will interest your Lordship to learn that M. Coumoundouros expressed himself to me as highly satisfied with the result of the late interview accorded to the Greek Representative by His Imperial Majesty the Sultan at Constantinople, who not only received the Greek Envoy with marked cordiality, but also deigned to bestow upon him a decoration of a high and distinguished Order.

I have frequently intimated to M. Coumoundouros that, in my opinion, the most efficacious method of removing the small vexatious questions that have unfortunately arisen between Turkey and Greece since the settlement by the Great Powers of the frontier question, and which are of minor importance, was to promote a good understanding with the Turkish Government through their Envoy at Constantinople, and by instructing him to invite a personal discussion of the points at issue with a view to their solution, and that such a course was far more calculated to lead to a speedy and satisfactory result than could be hoped to be obtained by the interchange of diplomatic notes and appeals to the intervention and good offices of the Great Powers.

I am happy to state that the day before yesterday Ismail Bey (the Turkish Commissioner under the IXth Article of the 24th of May) was granted an audience by His Majesty the King of Greece, on which occasion he was most graciously received.

Ismail Bey is a very intelligent gentleman, and is imbued with conciliatory and moderate views. I have pointed out to him the good he might effect during his stay at Athens were he to set to work, in conjunction with the Turkish Chargé d'Affaires here, in using his best efforts with M. Coumoundouros to put an end to the questions at issue between Turkey and Greece, and to effect the accomplishment of a result we were all so desirous of seeing, namely, the establishment of perfectly friendly relations between two Powers who have lately concluded so important an international arrangement.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANCIS CLARE FORD.

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No. 94.

E *Mr. Ford to Earl Granville.*—(*Received February* 20.)

(No. 22. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Athens, February* 10, 1882.

I RECEIVED a visit this morning from General Soutzo, Commander-in-chief of the Greek forces in Thessaly, and who has quite recently arrived at Athens on a few days' leave of absence.

I complimented the General on the successful manner in which the occupation by the Greek troops of the provinces lately ceded to Greece by Turkey had been effected, which was mainly to be attributed, I said, to the tact and judgment he had displayed whilst conducting the important and delicate duties assigned to him.

The General was evidently pleased by what I said to him, and he spoke to me in the highest terms of Major-General Hamley and the other British officers who were concerned in the military proceedings in Thessaly and Arta.

The General informed me that he enjoyed special means for preserving order and maintaining harmony in the ceded provinces, and that he had been on the best of terms with the Turkish authorities at Larissa and other parts of Thessaly, and that he now enjoyed the confidence and friendship of the most influential Beys who had remained in the provinces since the evacuation on the part of the Turkish troops had been effected. He deplored, he said, the existence of the small vexatious questions that had arisen between the Turkish and Greek Governments on points of minor importance; and he instanced an incident that had quite recently occurred at Turnavo, where the Turks stationed in the neighbourhood had cut off the entire water-supply of the inhabitants of the town.

The General told me that, on the matter being reported to him, he had at once communicated with the Turkish authorities, and that, owing to the friendly and urgent representations he had made, the grievance complained of had been redressed at once and harmony restored.

The General then gave me a confidential piece of intelligence that surprised me, the more so as he informed me that not even the Prime Minister had as yet been notified of it. It concerned the vexed question of Gounitza, which village has up to the present, and much to the discomfiture of the Greek Government, been occupied by a detachment of Turkish troops.

"I have been able," said the General, "to occupy the village with some of my troops, and the Turkish detachment that was quartered in it has gone."

From the General's statement it would appear he was able to obtain this result in a quiet and orderly manner, and with the concurrence of the Turkish officer in command of the detachment.

I thanked the General for his courtesy and confidence in making so important and satisfactory a communication to me, and I expressed the hope that when his act was known it would meet with the approval of all parties, and that we might then congratulate ourselves with having heard the end of a question that had caused so much anxiety and trouble.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANCIS CLARE FORD.

No. 95.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(*Received February* 20.)

(No. 66.)
My Lord, *Vienna, February* 14, 1882.

WITH reference to Mr. St. John's and Mr. Phipps' despatches respecting Mr. Evans, which are forwarded to your Lordship by this messenger, I have the honour to state that last night I again asked Count Kalnoky whether there was any intention of expelling him from Dalmatia.

His Excellency answered that, as I was aware, he had at first been opposed to the adoption of such a measure, but he would now tell me that, if the local authorities again propose it, he will make no further objection, either as regards Mr. Evans or Mr. Paget.

He repeated, in the most distinct manner, that he did not himself for a moment connect them with Her Majesty's Government; but as the discontented populations

and insurgents believed them to represent the feeling of Great Britain in favour of their cause their presence became an encouragement to the movement, of which the suppression had now been taken seriously in hand.

There need be no doubt of the perfect sincerity with which Count Kalnoky disclaims the supposition of Her Majesty's Government desiring to encourage the insurrection; but the belief of their feeling of hostility towards Austria and of affection for the Slavs, which, unfortunately, is still very general in this country, may very possibly extend to the military authorities in the South.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 96.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(*Received February* 20.)

(No. 74.)
My Lord, *Vienna, February* 17, 1882.

THE accounts from the Herzegovina and South Dalmatia have this week, on the whole, been satisfactory, the troops having, without much loss, succeeded in occupying various points to which importance was attached.

The Prince of Montenegro is establishing a cordon of his troops, to prevent his territory being taken advantage of by the insurgents in their operations against the Austrians, whom he permits to follow those who are driven across the frontier till they meet a Montenegrin post.

Mr. Consul Freeman has expressed to your Lordship the conviction that the insurrection must melt away if it does not find the support from abroad that was calculated upon, and the Imperial Government appear to take precisely the same view.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 97.

Mr. Phipps to Sir H. Elliot.—(*Received at the Foreign Office, February* 20.)

(No. 8.)
Sir, *Pesth, February* 12, 1882.

A PESTH newspaper gives the following information relative to Miss Alice Hurtley, to whose Slavophil activity references has been made during the recent debate in the Delegations:

She is stated to have reached Cettinjé in January, accompanied by several persons, and to have taken up her residence with Senator Petrovichs. At a Council held at his house on the 25th ultimo by the prominent agitators, including Starjevics as well as Davidovich, who is designated as the "Chief of the Insurrectional Movement," she is said to have expressed her readiness to devote 10,000 louis to the "cause of liberty," and to have at once handed 1,000 louis to Petrovichs, in order to commence the organization of a corps of 500 men, of which she was to share the command, and who were to be enrolled not in Montenegro, but in the Austro-Hungarian provinces.

Alluding to the reported murder on the 8th instant of Mr. Stillman, "Times" correspondent, by the Roman Catholic "Miridites," between Ipek and Djakova, the Special Correspondent of the "Pester Lloyd" at Ragusa, in a telegram dated the 10th instant, declares that Mr. Stillman had remained for some time in that town last year, and had in company with Mr. Evans entered into close relations with Panslavist Serbs in South Dalmatia and Montenegro. It is added, that he had recently travelled over Albania with the hope of arranging the co-operation of the Albanians against the Austro-Hungarian Government. A private telegram dated Vienna, in the "Pester Lloyd" of to-day, however, states that the victim is probably one of the other Englishmen in that district.

Mr. Paget (who, your Excellency may be aware, is a son of Lord Alfred Paget) is mentioned as being there.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. C. H. PHIPPS.

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

No. 98.

Mr. Phipps to Sir H. Elliot.—(Received February 20.)

(No. 9.)
Sir, *Buda-Pesth, February 15, 1882.*

THE Hungarian newspapers continue to report Panslavist intrigues in the south-east of the kingdom. Three emissaries were arrested a few days ago at Panscova and at Gross Kikinda, between Szegedin and Temesvar, on the railway to Orsova, who appear all to have been previously resident in that neighbourhood, and to have been consequently utilized by Moscow Committees, with whom their complicity was proved by documents found upon them. The principal one, Ivan Popovics, was on the point of proceeding to Belgrade, where he was to receive further instructions, and a letter in his possession addressed to a friend in St. Petersburgh is stated to have given evidence that he received 60 roubles from the Governor of Warsaw, as well as a free railway ticket from thence to Vienna. The Government is said to be cognizant of the names of a large number of persons with whom these individuals were in communication.

I am informed that the town of Neusatz on the Danube is the great centre in Hungary of Panslavist propagandism. Situated as it is close to Carlovitz, the seat of the Oriental Church Patriarchate, it is not surprising how much anxiety was caused to the Government by the recent Episcopal elections to which I have referred in previous correspondence.

Public attention is still persistently directed to the number of "English agitators" in the revolted districts, a designation which is apparently given to every English newspaper correspondent travelling about there in order to collect materials for his letters. The Ragusa correspondent of the "Pester Lloyd," formerly an officer in the army, and whose letters as regards military subjects are of great interest, declares in his last letter that the agitation proceeding from Montenegro is entirely fomented by agents who are either Austrian Slavs, Hungarian Serbs, or Englishmen, and states that he is in a position, if necessary, to name them. The following is the rather remarkable explanation which he supplies of the selfishly patriotic motives which induce Englishmen to participate in the Philoslav propaganda:

"A strong Power with an active trade and a developed industry, which establishes itself at the door of the East. Such a Power can become a very dangerous competitor to English commerce. Every obstacle which retards or adjourns the definitive consolidation of the Austro-Hungarian position on the Balkan Peninsula is consequently a net profit to the English."

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. C. H. PHIPPS.

No. 99.

Mr. Phipps to Sir H. Elliot.—(Received February 20.)

(No. 10.)
Sir, *Buda-Pesth, February 15, 1882.*

A MANIFESTO, purporting to be issued on the 28th January by the "Central Committee of the Insurgents in the Crivoscie, Herzegovina, and Bosnia," has just been published in the German newspapers here, and as it is stated that the "Wiener Vorstadt Zeitung" was yesterday confiscated on account of its publication, I think it may not have come under your Excellency's notice.

The document recapitulates at great length all the grievances of the inhabitants of the part of Dalmatia in insurrection, declaring that they had wrested their country from the Turks, that the Venetian Republic had recognized their rights (as to freedom from military service), and that Austria-Hungary had, by the "peace of Knozlac," established their privileges. It declares that, should they all be massacred, their brothers from Montenegro, Herzegovina, Bosnia, Servia, and Old Servia, as well as the Balkan States and the "great Russian nation," will revenge them. That "the English nation, under the great Liberal and statesman, Gladstone, is in favour of the liberation of all the Balkan States from an alien and brutal domination," that "the Russian Emperor and his principal Councillor, the author of the Peace of San Stefano, are in favour of their fight for freedom," while the Prince of Montenegro's assistance and military support was ensured.

The whole manifesto gives a clear proof that the insurgents are animated by a

conviction that Russia, Servia, and Montenegro are favourable to their aspirations, and will afford them active help.

A telegram in the following words, dated the 15th instant, from Bucharest, appears in this day's "Pester Lloyd":—"Bodies of Russians daily arrive in Rustchuk, and declare openly that they are going to Krivoscie, and are charged with the enlistment of volunteers, who are to receive a monthly pay of 20 roubles. All the Rustchuk hotels are full of Russian officers."

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. C. H. PHIPPS.

No. 100.

Consul St. John to Earl Granville.—(Received February 21.)

(No. 10.)
My Lord, *Ragusa, February 11, 1882.*

IN the Bocche di Cattaro, between the town of the same name and that of Perasto, there is a bay, and, looking down on this bay, an insignificant hamlet named Obarovač, marked on the well-known Austrian ordnance map. There, the day before yesterday, the first shot was fired on Austrian territory since the refusal of the Crivoscians last autumn to submit to the new military law. The locality in question is one of the few offering access to the disturbed mountain districts, and was much used by the insurgents for the conveyance of supplies necessary for their resistance. For that reason the military authorities deemed it expedient to occupy those heights, and, in order to do so with safety, to cover the landing and ascent of troops by the bombardment of Obarovač from the ships of war stationed beneath. It is supposed that the heights once attained and a commanding position taken up a forward northerly movement will be made, while from Trebinjé a simultaneous southerly one will hem in the Crivoscians between Montenegro and the sea. The future of Montenegro now depends on the steps she will take in the matter. The Prince, I know, still exercises considerable influence, and is anxious to fulfil, for the present, at all events, his obligations of neutrality to Austria; but it is feared that hostilities once commenced, his subjects, who care little for international obligations, will become uncontrollable, and make common cause with their neighbours. There can be no doubt that in this they have outside encouragement, for the movement in Southern Dalmatia, as well as in the occupied provinces, I have the best authority for stating, is being supported by associations from every country where Slavs are to be found.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. ST. JOHN.

No. 101.

Consul St. John to Earl Granville.—(Received February 21.)

(No. 11.)
My Lord, *Ragusa, February 13, 1882.*

SIMULTANEOUSLY with the bombardment of Obarovač, mentioned in my despatch No. 10 of the 11th instant, an attack by Austrian troops was made on the village of Lednice, situated on the mountains above Risano, in the Bocche di Cattaro. The details will not be known until officially published by the Vienna papers, but I have just seen a telegram from an officer who had taken part in the affair, mentioning killed and wounded.

It is suspected there must have been some hard fighting, and that the troops cannot claim a complete victory.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. ST. JOHN.

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No. 102.

Consul St. John to Earl Granville.—(Received February 21.)

(No. 12.)
My Lord, *Ragusa, February 13, 1882.*

M. YONINE, the Russian Minister for Montenegro, has been staying for some weeks at Ragusa, and starts to-morrow for Antivari. His object in going there is to advise the Prince to return at once to Cettinjé, as affairs in Montenegro appear to be critical, and His Highness' absence from the capital is interpreted as implying a desire to abstain from interfering with his subjects in whatever course they may adopt with regard to the insurrection in Southern Dalmatia and the occupied provinces; whereas, according to M. Yonine, the Prince joined his family at Antivari in order to dispel any accusations of interference in favour of the insurgents that might be brought against him by the Austrian military authorities, who, nevertheless, entertain the conviction that the Prince is playing a double game by pretending to keep his engagements, and all the while secretly allowing his subjects to act as they like.

M. Yonine, I believe, is sincere in his expressed desire that Montenegro should give no cause for complaint, and is anxious that no fortuitous indiscretion should compromise the independence of the province for which he has so many years laboured. M. Yonine will, therefore, strongly recommend the Prince to exercise the influence he still possesses, but which a prolonged absence may forfeit, for controlling his subjects. From a conversation that took place at my house to-day between M. Yonine and M. Durando, the Italian Chargé d'Affaires, I was able to gather that, however sceptical General Jovanovich may be, it was, in their opinion, a matter for congratulation that Colonel Thümmel, the Austrian Minister, now the only foreign Representative at Cettinjé, thoroughly believes in the sincerity of the Prince, and reports in that sense to his Government; and further, that the immigration into Montenegro of whole families of Herzegovinians, owing to their alleged ill-treatment by Austrian officials, will so exasperate the Montenegrins as to make it a difficult task for the Prince to dissuade them from rendering assistance and taking part in the insurrection.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. ST. JOHN.

No. 103.

Earl Granville to Sir A. Paget.

E
(No. 77.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, February 21, 1882.*

THE Italian Ambassador called upon me this afternoon and asked whether it was true, as the Italian Government were informed by their Representative at Bucharest, that the question of the dedicated convents was being exclusively treated between the Roumanian and British Governments.

I told his Excellency that this was not the case, and that we had no wish to treat the matter separately to the exclusion of other Powers.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 104.

Earl Granville to Musurus Pasha.

E
M. l'Ambassadeur, *Foreign Office, February 21, 1882.*

WITH reference to the note from the Porte of the 2nd instant, which your Excellency communicated to me on the 14th instant, respecting the desire of the Turkish Government to make some changes in the ceremonial observed in Turkey when Heads of foreign Missions or foreign Consuls are travelling in the Ottoman dominions, I have the honour to acquaint your Excellency that I am expecting a Report on the subject from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, who is in communication with his colleagues with reference to the matter.

When the Earl of Dufferin's Report has been considered by Her Majesty's Government, I will do myself the honour of replying to the communication from the Porte.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 105.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received February 27.)

(No. 116.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, February 20, 1882.*

IN reply to your Lordship's inquiry as to who was the Englishman referred to in my despatch No. 46 of the 25th ultimo, with respect to whom an impression prevailed at the Austrian Embassy that he had been occupied in fomenting the agitation in the Herzegovina, I have the honour to state that in all probability Mr. Paget, son of Lord Alfred Paget, is the person referred to, as he is the only Englishman who appears to have been recently moving in those parts.

As Mr. Paget is now here and has acquainted me with the character of his proceedings, I shall take steps to dispel any suspicions which might have existed in the mind of my Austrian colleague in regard to him.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 106.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received February 27.)

(No. 124.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, February 21, 1882.*

I HAVE the honour to state that I have acquainted the Minister for Foreign Affairs with the views of Her Majesty's Government in regard to the demolition of the Bulgarian fortresses, as set forth in your Lordship's despatch No. 64 of the 4th instant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 107.

Mr. Locock to Earl Granville.—(Received February 27.)

(No. 23.)
My Lord, *Belgrade, February 10, 1882.*

THE Servian Government continues to use its best exertions to prevent aid from this country reaching the neighbouring provinces in revolt against Austria, and I believe that the Austrian Government, or, at all events, its Legation here, is persuaded of the fact. To say, however, that the efforts of this Government are uniformly successful would be to pretend that it is achieving what, to any Government with its slender means, would be an impossibility. Collections in money are undoubtedly being made pretty widely throughout the country for the Bosnians, and although they take the form of subscriptions for the relief of the wounded or for the widows and orphans of those who have fallen in the insurrection, the secrecy with which they are raised is a pretty evident proof, were such required, of their true object. Mr. Vice-Consul Baker recently wrote to me from Nisch that he had received a mysterious hint that some such subscription was being made in that town, and that on his at once declining to have anything to do with it, the gentleman who had spoken to him about it begged that his name might not be mentioned in connection with the matter. Even to this Legation an application was made for pecuniary assistance to aid some Bosnians to return home in order to assist in the liberation of their country.

One of the Secretaries of the Austrian legation is a military man, and is well acquainted with the country lying between the present seat of the revolt and the Servian frontier. He is aware of the difficulty which even the best troops and the strongest Government would have in absolutely preventing occasional aid from this country reaching the revolted provinces across the narrow strip of country between

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Servia and Montenegro. He says that in that part of Southern Bosnia there are footways over the mountains easy to traverse and hitherto quite safe from Austrian supervision. I was speaking with him only last night on the subject, and he told me that the Servian Government was doing its best, and was succeeding fairly well, but that to effectually close so difficult a frontier would require a whole corps d'armée of the best troops. I was further told yesterday at the Foreign Office that, up to the present time, the Austrian Government had made no complaint of the way in which the Servian Government was performing its part as the Government of a friendly neighbour.

But I must add that friendly feelings towards Austria with regard to the struggle now taking place so near the Servian territory animate but the very smallest section of the population. It is doubtful, indeed, whether the progress of Austrian arms in Bosnia awakens the sympathy of either Prince Milan or a single member of his Government or personal *entourage*. On this point it is improbable that the Austrian Government itself indulges in any illusions. But the Prince and his present Government believe that, in cultivating the most friendly relations with their powerful northern neighbour, and in restraining the Chauvinist tendencies of the nation, they are acting in the best and truest interests of their country. This is likewise the opinion of impartial spectators here. Should the present critical position of the Government, arising out of the great Paris failure, end in its fall, and should another Government take its place unable to gain the confidence of Austria, or proving itself in the course of events incompetent or uncareful to retain it, in that case I believe the Servians may at any moment see their western frontier occupied by Austrian troops.

I have, &c.
(Signed) SIDNEY LOCOCK.

No. 108.

Mr. Phipps to Sir H. Elliot.—(Received at the Foreign Office, February 27.)

(No. 12.)
Sir, *Buda-Pesth, February 18, 1882.*

A PARAGRAPH inserted in a prominent position in the "Pester Lloyd," and bearing the appearance of a *communiqué*, has reference to the Englishmen who, as I have reported, have been accused of taking part in the Slavophil propagandism in the disturbed districts.

It declares that three Englishmen, two of whom are newspaper correspondents, have for some months been going about South Dalmatia, and that it had been an established fact that one of them was the author of the famous address which Kovacsevics sent to the Czar and to Mr. Gladstone, but that these persons had, some weeks ago, left the field of their agitations, and that one of them was believed to have been murdered.

It is added that, although these persons who have been acting as correspondents in those districts have undoubtedly not exerted such influence as they may have possessed in a sense favourable to Austro-Hungarian interests, it would be yet unjustifiable and even foolish to found thereupon reports of a possible English agitation; that no proof is required, that not merely the English Government, but the English people, hold quite aloof from the ideas of these enthusiasts.

It is to be hoped now that no more wild theories will be founded on English jealousy of Austro-Hungarian influence in the Balkan Peninsula.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. C. H. PHIPPS.

No. 109.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received March 1.)

(No. 17.)
My Lord, *Scutari, February 16, 1882.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that Prince Nicholas last week left Antivari for three or four days, and hurriedly visited both Podgoritza and Cettinjé.

His Highness availed himself of every opportunity during his journey to publicly impress upon those with whom he came in contact the absolute necessity under which

the Principality is bound to observe loyally and strictly its obligations of international neutrality in the struggle which is going on between the Austro-Hungarian troops and the insurgents in the Bocche di Cattaro, the Herzegovina, and Bosnia.

The Prince explained that no intercourse must be held by the Montenegrins with the insurgents, and that only in cases where men, women, and children are endeavouring to escape death from the bayonet's point may fugitives be allowed to find shelter within the Principality's frontiers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 110.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received March 1.)

(No. 18.)
My Lord, *Scutari, February 16, 1882.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that last week seventeen Moslem male refugees from the Herzegovina arrived here viâ Niesić and Podgoritza.

I believe these men are the Mahommedan portion of the band alluded to in my despatch No. 7 of the 21st ultimo as having sought refuge on Montenegrin territory near Niesić.

I am told that they state that they were not insurgents, but merely escaped from the Herzegovina to avoid the conscription.

They have applied to the authorities here for subsistence, and have been enrolled in the local police force. This proceeding is likely to be displeasing to the Austro-Hungarian Government, but it is most probable that the Vali has been careful not to act in the matter without instructions from the Porte.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 111.

Consul St. John to Earl Granville.—(Received March 1.)

(No. 13.)
My Lord, *Ragusa, February 18, 1882.*

GENERAL JOVANOVICH states that, unless instructed to the contrary from Vienna, he will postpone adopting more effective measures for the suppression of the insurrection in the Herzegovina until the season is more advanced. The action of the troops under his command will, therefore, for the present, be confined to repelling attacks and the prevention of brigandage. If operations on a large scale be undertaken in April, his opinion is that the rebellion ought to be put down by June or July. But persons competent to judge maintain that the delay is favourable to the insurgents, and will make the task all the more difficult to the military; though the ultimate success of the latter cannot be doubted so long as the movement is confined to the occupied provinces, and receives no material support from abroad. Much depends now on the attitude of Montenegro, between whom and the contiguous disturbed districts there exist many ties. The prevalent impression is, that the Prince still exercises great control over his people, and is desirous to act loyally to Austria; but during his absence from the capital his subjects are said to have compromised the Principality by their avowed sympathy for the insurgents. This was pointed out by M. Youine a few days ago at Antivari, and led to the Prince's immediate return to Cettinjé.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. ST. JOHN.

No. 112.

Consul Freeman to Earl Granville.—(Received March 1.)

(No. 7.)
My Lord, *Serajevo, February 21, 1882.*

THERE appears to be a momentary lull in the insurrectional movement in this province, and no important encounter has occurred since the 10th instant, when the

insurgents, in considerable force, attacked a military post at Tirnova. They were repulsed with loss, leaving, according to official accounts, twenty-three dead on the field, of whom four were Mussulmans. From a Mussulman source, however, I hear that only eight were killed, all Mahommedans.

As yet the troops have not assumed the offensive, but have confined their action to patrolling the country in force and making reconnaissances. Now, however, all the expected reinforcements have arrived, certain strategical positions have been occupied, and a combined attack on the insurgents will probably ere long be made.

I inclose herein a statement of the infantry troops at present in Bosnia and the Herzegovina. I have not been able to obtain correct information regarding the other arms of the service. The artillery, which is exclusively mountain artillery, is probably in the usual proportion to the infantry. Of cavalry there are, I believe, only four squadrons. There are likewise one company of pioneers, and one or two of engineers.

Besides these troops Major-General Jovanovic, who commands also in the Herzegovina, has under his command in Southern Dalmatia a division consisting of four mountain brigades and one garrison brigade.

It is stated that General Jovanovic has armed portions of the population of the Herzegovina, probably the Catholics, and in some cases the Mahommedans. This appears to me a questionable measure. It serves to keep up the animosity existing between the different sects, and their disarmament after the restoration of tranquillity, which must inevitably take place, may be the cause of some discontent.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWD. B. FREEMAN.

Inclosure in No. 112.

AUSTRIAN Infantry in Bosnia and the Herzegovina.

	Head-quarters.	Infantry Regiments.	Rifle (Jäger) Battalions.
1st Division	Serajevo.		
1st Brigade	Plevlje	25th, 77th	18th
2nd ,, ...	Serajevo	51st, 62nd, 80th	..
3rd ,, ...	Foca	1st, 75th	..
13th Division	Banjaluka.		
25th Brigade	Travnik	9th, 66th	14th
26th ,, ...	Banjaluka	12th, 63th	6th, 13th
18th Division	Mostar.		
1st Mountain Brigade ..	Mostar	3rd, 71st	8th, 26th
2nd ,, ,, ..	Trebinje	16th, 67th	(?) 20th
3rd ,, ,, ..	Stolac	11th	22nd
20th Division	Essegg, in Slavonia.		
39th Brigade	Tuzla	6th, 65th	..
Total	.. .. ..	18 regiments	9 battalions

The regiments consist of three battalions, the battalions of four companies, and the companies of 160 men.

Therefore, eighteen regiments of the line and nine battalions of rifles, or sixty-three battalions, represent about 40,000 men.

Serajevo, February 21, 1882.

No. 113.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 67.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March* 2, 1882, 4·50 P.M.

UNITED States' Government have telegraphed to Minister here that they are informed that Ottoman Minister of Justice issues instructions that Turkish Courts shall take jurisdiction over foreigners committing offences made criminal by Turkish laws.

Do you know anything of this?

No. 114.

Mr. St. John to Earl Granville.—(*Received March* 4, 2·30 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Ragusa, March* 4, 1882, 10·10 A.M.

MR. EVANS has received notice to quit Austrian territory within three days.

No. 115.

Earl Granville to Lord Lyons.

(No. 72.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March* 4, 1882, 3·20 P.M.

YOUR telegram of 3rd instant without number.

Her Majesty's Government concur in M. de Freycinet's views as to assumption of title of "King" by Prince of Servia.

No. 116.

Mr. Locock to Earl Granville.—(*Received March* 4, 4·30 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, March* 4, 1882, *noon.*

MINISTER for Foreign Affairs told one of my colleagues that the Proclamation of a kingdom was for internal and external reasons, and that the Servian Government was assured of unreserved approval of Austria.

No. 117.

Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot.

E
(No. 61.) *Foreign Office, March* 4, 1882.

Sir,

YOUR Excellency reported, in your despatch No. 31 of the 25th January last, the language which Count Kálnoky had used on the subject of the reiterated complaints of the Porte respecting the non-demolition of the old fortresses in Bulgaria, which should have been razed by the Principality in accordance with the stipulations of Article XI of the Treaty of Berlin.

You will have learnt from my despatch to Lord Dufferin, No. 64 of the 4th ultimo, the nature of the language which I used to Musurus Pasha when he made a communication to me on the subject similar to that which appears to have been made about the same time to the Austro-Hungarian Government, and you will consequently be in a position to inform Count Kálnoky, if his Excellency should revert to the question, that Her Majesty's Government have informed the Porte that they would be ready to join with the other Powers in any suitable representations on the subject which it might be decided to make to the Government of Bulgaria.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 118.

Earl Granville to Lord Lyons.

(No. 237. Extender.) *Foreign Office, March* 4, 1882.

My Lord,

IN reply to your Excellency's telegram of yesterday, referring to the communications which have passed between the Servian Minister and M. de Freycinet, respecting the question of the Prince of Servia taking the title of King, I have to state to your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government concur in M. de Freycinet's views on this subject.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

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No. 119.

Earl Granville to Musurus Pasha.

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Foreign Office, March 4, 1882.*

I HAVE the honour to acquaint your Excellency, with reference to the despatch from the Porte of the 20th December, which you communicated to me on the 29th of that month, that in compliance with instructions from Her Majesty's Government, the Queen's Ambassador at Constantinople has called the attention of the Representatives of the other Great Powers to the difficulties which the Mussulman emigrants from Bulgaria encounter in obtaining an equitable settlement in regard to their real property in the Principality.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 120.

Prince Ghika to Earl Granville.—(Received March 5.)

E

My Lord, *Légation de Roumanie, Londres, le 27 Février*, 1882.

LE Gouvernement Roumain attache une grande importance à la manière dont votre Seigneurie envisage les démarches faites par la Porte pour soumettre à un arbitrage les réclamations des Saints-Lieux, et ce n'est pas sans appréhension que j'ai lu la réponse que votre Seigneurie a bien voulu faire à ma communication du 28 Décembre dernier.

La question des couvents déliés est une question capitale pour la Roumanie, non seulement au point de vue des intérêts matériels, mais aussi et surtout à cause des droits imprescriptibles qui s'y trouvent engagés. Les sentiments qui animent le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique à notre égard, et dont nous avons eu des preuves en maintes occasions, m'autorisent à exprimer ici l'espoir qu'il voudra bien examiner avec bienveillance et équité les considérations qui empêchent la Roumanie de reconnaître le caractère d'un différend international aux prétentions formulées par les Lieux-Saints.

Il s'agit, dans l'espèce, d'établissements religieux et de charité faisant partie du patrimoine national au même titre que tous les établissements de même nature situés dans le pays. Les rapports spirituels et disciplinaires qui ont été établis soit par les fondateurs eux-mêmes, et c'est le cas le moins fréquent, soit postérieurement par les Princes du pays, entre ces établissements et quelques monastères des Saints-Lieux, n'ont pas enlevé aux monastères dédiés le caractère d'établissements nationaux, et n'ont pas porté atteinte au droit que s'est toujours réservé l'autorité souveraine de prendre à leur égard toutes les dispositions commandées par l'intérêt du pays. C'est donc là une question d'administration purement intérieure, qui a été parfaitement définie par la majorité des Délégués de la Commission Internationale envoyée dans les Principautés à la suite du Traité de Paris. De cette majorité faisait partie le Délégué de la Grande-Bretagne avec ceux de l'Autriche, de la France, de l'Italie, et de la Russie.

Je ne crois pas inutile, my Lord, de résumer à cette place les conclusions du rapport de la Commission. Après avoir constaté que, parmi les couvents déliés aux Saints-Lieux, un petit nombre seulement l'avait été par les fondateurs, et que la majorité de ces couvents avait été dédiée postérieurement par nos Princes, qui les avaient placés, par des actes de dédicace, sous la surveillance de couvents étrangers qui étaient alors en grande vénération; après avoir établi que le but de ces dédicaces était de pourvoir plus amplement au maintien des communautés et aux charités imposées par les fondateurs; après avoir reconnu que les biens des couvents déliés devaient être considérés comme des biens appartenant au pays Moldo-Valaque; enfin, après s'être assurés que les couvents déliés se trouvaient dans un état de délabrement regrettable; que ces couvents, malgré leurs énormes revenus, n'exerçaient pas les œuvres charitables qu'on était en droit d'attendre d'eux; que ces revenus étaient employés au profit des moines grecs qui les administraient, ou au profit des couvents grecs dont ces moines étaient les représentants; les Commissaires d'Autriche, de France, de la Grande-Bretagne, et de la Sardaigne concluaient en ces termes:—

"Si les Princes avaient le droit de dédier les couvents indigènes aux couvents des Saints-Lieux, parce qu'alors les premiers ne répondaient pas au but de leur institution,

l'État, à ce qu'il paraît, aurait encore aujourd'hui le droit de faire cesser cette dédicace puisque les conditions imposées n'ont pas été remplies. Car de deux choses l'une: ou la propriété de l'Église était simplement propriété particulière, et alors les Princes ne pouvaient pas en disposer; ou bien elle était une propriété pour ainsi dire nationale dédiée à des actes de piété, sous les auspices de l'État, et dans ce cas, les Princes qui ont eu le droit de faire la dédicace, ont aussi celui de la retirer."

Lorsque, contrairement à ces conclusions, la Conférence de Paris crut devoir indiquer dans un Protocole la procédure à suivre pour le réglement de la question des couvents dédiés, le Gouvernement des Principautés Unies jugea qu'il était de son devoir de soumettre aux Puissances garantes les motifs pour lesquels il devait refuser tout caractère obligatoire à une disposition qui n'avait été insérée ni dans le Traité de Paris, ni dans la Convention de 1858, et qui portait atteinte aux droits séculaires du pays de régler cette question en vertu de sa propre autonomie. (Ces droits ont été consignés dans une dépêche du Ministre des Affaires Étrangères des Principautés Unies en date du $\frac{1}{13}$ Juin, 1863, No. 2243, adressée à son Agent à Constantinople, et dont copie a été donnée à la Sublime Porte, ainsi qu'aux Représentants des Puissances garantes.)

Il est vrai qu'à la suite des dispositions législatives concernant la sécularisation des biens conventuels, les Représentants des Puissances garantes à Constantinople se sont réunis en conférence pour examiner les protestations des représentants des Saints-Lieux. Mais ainsi que le constate une déclaration officieuse faite par le Gouvernement Français en 1865, la plupart des Cabinets Signataires du Traité de Paris ont reconnu qu'il aurait été contraire aux principes du droit public Européen d'obliger le Gouvernement Moldo-Valaque de conserver à l'état de biens de main-morte les propriétés conventuelles, qui comprenaient une grande partie du territoire, et qui étaient administrées par des moines étrangers.

Depuis lors, et pendant plus de quinze ans, le pays a pu appliquer sans contestation les revenus de ces biens à leur véritable destination, en réparant les églises laissées en ruine par les moines étrangers, en relevant les établissements hospitaliers et de charité, en développant l'instruction publique. Comment pourrait-on faire revivre aujourd'hui pour les invoquer contre nous les dispositions du Protocole 13 de la Conférence de Paris? Si à l'époque où ce Traité était en pleine vigueur et où la Roumanie n'était pas encore devenue un État indépendant, l'Europe n'a pas cru devoir insister pour l'application de cette disposition, parce qu'elle l'a trouvée injuste et dépourvue de toute sanction légale, comment le ferait-elle aujourd'hui que l'indépendance de la Roumanie a été reconnue, et que le pays a rempli fidèlement toutes les conditions dont l'Europe a fait dépendre cette reconnaissance?

Dans la note que j'ai reçue à ce sujet, votre Seigneurie semble penser qu'en consentant à soumettre les revendications des Saints-Lieux à l'arbitrage exigé par la Porte, le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique agit non seulement d'après les principes posés en 1858, mais aussi conformément à l'avis exprimé dans le Protocole 15 du Congrès de Berlin. Cette manière de voir ne paraît pas conforme aux considérations mêmes pour lesquelles le Congrès de Berlin a écarté la motion des Plénipotentiaires de Turquie, confirmant ainsi les droits inaliénables de la Roumanie de décliner toute immixtion étrangère dans une affaire d'administration intérieure, et qui ne saurait revêtir le caractère d'une question internationale. En effet, le Président du Congrès, en présentant la motion du Plénipotentiaire de Turquie, a exprimé ses doutes sur la compétence de la Haute Assemblée dans cette question étrangère en elle-même aux Traités de 1856, 1871, et de San Stéfano, et Lord Salisbury a déclaré ne pas voir qu'elle peut être la sanction d'une décision du Congrès en pareille matière, du moment que l'indépendance de la Roumanie n'en pouvait dépendre.

Le Congrès a reconnu ainsi qu'aucun Traité ou Acte international ne pouvait être invoqué pour obliger la Roumanie à se soumettre à une procédure à laquelle elle n'avait pas consenti. Si la Haute Assemblée a donné son assentiment à ce qu'il fut noté au Protocole que les Représentants des Puissances étaient prêts à en référer à leur Gouvernement, et à recommander à leur sollicitude l'examen de cette affaire, soit sur les anciennes bases, soit sur celles qui seraient le résultat des délibérations du Congrès, peut-on tirer de ce fait la conclusion que le Congrès de Berlin a reconnu un caractère obligatoire pour la Roumanie aux dispositions contenues dans le Protocole 13 de la Conférence de Paris, et qu'il s'est mis ainsi en contradiction avec ses propres déclarations, à savoir: que cette question était en elle-même étrangère au Traité de Paris?

Nous ne trouvons donc, ni dans le Traité de Berlin, ni dans les délibérations du Congrès, aucune décision de nature à changer l'état dans lequel se trouvait cette

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question avant la réunion du Congrès. Cet état se trouve aujourd'hui déterminé par l'ensemble des actes que j'ai eu l'honneur de rappeler plus haut, et par les dispositions législatives édictées par la Roumanie en vertu de ses prérogatives souveraines.

Ces faits ont créé un état de choses qui a été reconnu par les Puissances soit tacitement, soit par des déclarations formelles. L'argument qu'on voudrait tirer du fait que nous-mêmes nous aurions formulé des propositions d'arrangement, et que nous aurions reconnu par là qu'une indemnité était due aux Saints-Lieux, ne saurait être invoqué dans la question de compétence qui seule nous occupe en ce moment. En admettant, ce que nous contestons, que ces propositions puissent être considérées comme une reconnaissance de notre part qu'une indemnité quelconque est due aux moines étrangers ainsi qu'ils le prétendent, comment cette reconnaissance pourrait-elle changer la nature de la question, et établir la compétence des Puissances de connaître de cette affaire? Une semblable reconnaissance, si elle existait, constituerait tout au plus un moyen de fond et non un réglement de juridiction.

Les moines étrangers peuvent, s'ils le jugent nécessaire, intenter leur action contre l'État Roumain devant les Tribunaux du pays, seuls compétents; ils peuvent faire valoir les titres et les moyens sur lesquels ils croient pouvoir fonder leurs prétentions; la justice Roumaine les examine avec équité et une complète impartialité.

Je me base, my Lord, sur les sentiments de haute équité de la Grande-Bretagne et des autres Puissances pour exprimer le ferme espoir qu'elles ne donneront pas leur adhésion à des prétentions que la Roumanie ne saurait reconnaître, et contre lesquelles elle se verrait dans la pénible nécessité de protester de toutes ses forces; car il ne s'agit pas ici d'une simple question d'intérêts matériels, mais de la sauvegarde de ses droits les plus précieux.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) JON GHIKA.

No. 121.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received March 6.)

(No. 135.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, February 26, 1882.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship an extract taken from the "Turquie" of yesterday, giving a translation of a somewhat remarkable article published by the "Vakit" on the position of Austria-Hungary as regards Panslavism and the movement in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

I should wish to call your Lordship's special attention to the suggestions made for meeting this agitation, particularly as regards the proposal for the occupation of Novi-Bazar and the Balkans by Ottoman troops.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 121.

Extract from "La Turquie" of February 25, 1882.

LA PRESSE TURQUE: LA SITUATION DE L'AUTRICHE-HONGRIE.—On lit dans le "Vakit" de ce matin:—

"Les Panslavistes considèrent la situation de l'Autriche-Hongrie comme très précaire.

"Cette appréciation est peut-être un peu exagérée, mais il n'en est pas moins vrai que la situation est difficile.

"Dans le temps l'Europe entière reprochait à la Turquie son incapacité à prendre les mesures nécessaires pour maintenir l'ordre dans la Bosnie et l'Herzégovine.

"Que doit-on penser aujourd'hui de l'Autriche-Hongrie? Avec tous ces moyens d'action, avec sa civilisation, avec son savoir-faire elle ne parvient pas à faire mieux que la Turquie.

"La diplomatie qui a conféré à l'Autriche-Hongrie la mission d'établir l'ordre dans ces deux provinces doit certainement se convaincre aujourd'hui de l'erreur qu'elle a commise.

"Le temps démontrera les autres fautes du Congrès de Berlin.

"En attendant, il y a lieu de constater aujourd'hui que les soulèvements et les insurrections des populations des Balkans n'avaient pas absolument pour cause notre mauvaise administration, comme on se plaisait à le dire.

"Tant que les Comités Slaves ne cesseront pas d'agir et de fomenter des troubles, l'établissement et le maintien de l'ordre sur les Balkans seront impossibles.

"Aujourd'hui il est enfin avéré que ce qui a été et sera une menace permanente pour l'Autriche-Hongrie et un embarras continuel pour la Turquie c'est le Panslavisme.

"On peut dire que le Panslavisme est un fléau qui ne vise qu'à la destruction de l'Autriche-Hongrie et à l'anéantissement de la Turquie.

"On doit donc chercher s'il n'y a pas un moyen de prévenir le mal, de parer à la catastrophe.

"A notre avis, le seul moyen de combattre l'ennemi commun c'est l'entente entre les deux Puissances menacées.

"L'Autriche, visée directement par le Panslavisme, devait être la première à penser à ce moyen et à préparer la voie pour une entente.

"Aujourd'hui elle doit éprouver des regrets de n'avoir pas pensé à ce moyen salutaire.

"L'Autriche doit comprendre que la police de la presqu'île des Balkans appartient exclusivement à elle et à la Turquie. Pour que l'Autriche puisse remplir d'une manière efficace sa mission, le concours et l'aide de la Turquie lui sont indispensables. Sans cela sa tâche deviendra toujours impossible. Notre concours est cependant subordonné à deux conditions. La première c'est que l'Autriche renonce à une partie des avantages qui lui ont été accordés par le Traité de Berlin; et la seconde c'est qu'elle nous aide sérieusement et réellement à ce que nous réalisions celles des clauses du Traité qui nous sont favorables.

"Qu'elle renonce donc à l'occupation de Novi-Bazar et que cette place soit remise entièrement entre les mains des troupes Ottomanes et qu'elle nous accorde son concours moral pour l'occupation militaire des Balkans.

"Nous croyons qu'une entente sur ces bases est très facile."

No. 122.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received March 6.)

(No. 89.)
My Lord, *Vienna, March 1, 1882.*

A COMBINED operation against the insurgents in the Herzegovina, which was commenced last week, has been attended by considerable, although only partial, success.

It had been hoped, by means of strong bodies of troops advancing from different points at the same time, to cut off the retreat of the main force of the insurgents, which was collected in the mountainous country forming a triangle between Serajevo, Glavanicevo, and Foga; but the difficulty of insuring the arrival of the different corps at their appointed posts when their march was impeded by snow caused to some of them a delay which allowed the enemy to effect his escape. The insurgents were, however, driven from their advantageous positions, which are now occupied by the Imperial troops, and have been obliged to retreat to a country where it is thought that they will not easily find provisions or supplies, and it is thought probable that many of those among them who had been forced, or unwillingly induced, to join in the movement, will find an opportunity of concealing their arms, and of returning to their villages.

The official reports of the operations are regarded here with a certain suspicion, but some of the strongest opposition papers recognize the importance of the step that has been made.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 123.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received March 6.)

(No. 93.) *Vienna, March 2, 1882.*
My Lord,

THE despatch of three battalions of Turkish troops to the frontier of the Sandjak of Novi-Bazar has given much satisfaction to the Austrian Government, who do not, I understand, propose to send, as they are entitled to do, an equal force into that district.

They are quite satisfied with leaving the Sultan's troops to prevent support being sent to the insurgents from that quarter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 124.

Lord Lyons to Earl Granville.—(Received March 6.)

(No. 193.) *Paris, March 5, 1882.*
My Lord,

LAST evening, in pursuance of the instruction conveyed to me by your Lordship's telegram No. 72 of yesterday, I informed M. de Freycinet that Her Majesty's Government concurred in the views he had expressed [to me as to the assumption of the title of King by the Prince of Servia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 125.

Mr. Locock to Earl Granville.—(Received March 6, 2:30 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, March 6, 1882, 12:50 P.M.*

THIS morning the President of the [Skuptchina proposed to invite the Prince to take the Royal title.

Proposal carried by acclamation.

Skuptchina went to Palace in a body. The Prince accepted.

Skuptchina then unanimously passed a Bill conferring on the Prince title of Milan I, King of Servia.

Bill signed by the Prince, who has been just proclaimed.

I await instructions.

No. 126.

Mr. Locock to Earl Granville.—(Received March 6, 4:30 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, March 6, 1882, 3 P.M.*

I HAVE received from the Minister for Foreign Affairs official announcement of the assumption of the title of King by the Prince in virtue of Law passed by the National Assembly to-day, with the intimation that it will be shortly notified to Foreign Courts in usual form.

No. 127.

Lord Ampthill to Earl Granville.—(Received March 6, 4:40 P.M.)

(No. 16.) *Berlin, March 6, 1882, 3:47 P.M.*
(Telegraphic.)

MINISTER for Foreign Affairs tells me that Germany will recognize new Kingdom of Servia if Austria does.

No. 128.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received March 7, 8 A.M.)

(No. 49.) *Constantinople, March 6, 1882, 9 P.M.*
(Telegraphic.)

MINISTER for Foreign Affairs is anxious to know what course the British Government intends to adopt in reference to the intention of the Prince of Servia to assume the title of King.

No. 129.

Consul St. John to Earl Granville.—(Received March 7, 1:30 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Ragusa, March 7, 1882, 11 A.M.*

HAVE arranged that Mr. Evans should not be expelled, but leave at his own free will.

His return will depend on his abstaining from interfering in the affairs of Austria, providing consent of the Government to this be obtained by the [? Commander-in-chief].

No. 130.

Consul St. John to Earl Granville.—(Received March 7, 3:30 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Ragusa, March 7, 1882, 1:40 P.M.*

NOTWITHSTANDING the arrangements I made with General Yovanovich that Mr. Evans should be allowed to leave to-day, he has been arrested and is now in prison.

No. 131.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 73.) *Foreign Office, March 7, 1882, 5:45 P.M.*
(Telegraphic.)

YOUR telegram No. 49 of yesterday.

Her Majesty's Government have informed French Government that they consider Proclamation of Prince Milan as King of Servia to be an internal question. They therefore propose to follow course adopted in the case of Roumania, and to recognize the title as other Powers do.

No. 132.

Consul Freeman to Earl Granville.—(Received March 8.)

(No. 8.) *Serajevo, February 28, 1882.*
My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 7 of the 21st instant, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that the Austrians made a combined movement against the insurgents in the district of Zagoria about the 22nd instant, but it does not appear to have been attended with any important results. As far as I can make out, the insurgents held a position on the Krbljina Planina; one force, consisting of three regiments, under Colonel Arlow, marched against them from Trnova; another force from Foča, under Brigadier-General Leddihn; and a third from the Herzegovina, by way of the upper Narenta Valley, under, I believe, Colonel Haas. Owing, however, to the severity of the weather, the troops were not all able to arrive exactly at the time and place as concerted, and the insurgents slipped from their grasp. This, I fear, will generally be the result of these concerted movements for surrounding the insurgents. The difficulties of the ground are so great for regular troops, the natives are naturally so much better acquainted than these latter can possibly be with every mountain pass

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and path, and are also so well informed of all the movements of the troops, that they will invariably manage to elude an attack when they consider the force brought against them too strong.

Colonel Arlow and General Leddihn are now, I believe, encamped respectively at Mjehovina and Kalinovik.

Colonel Haas is said to have met a body of about 500 insurgents at Glavatičevo, who retreated towards the Krstac Planina, but having been reinforced, risked an engagement near Bjelemići. The loss on both sides appears to have been trifling, but the troops are reported to have captured a considerable number of arms.

At Brod, on the Drina, about 3 miles above Foča, the troops have also had a very successful engagement with a body of insurgents who were attempting to cross the river; forty of the latter are said to have been killed and some sixty taken prisoners. According to letters found on one of those killed, the insurgents are greatly discouraged by their losses and the failure of foreign assistance; and the local authorities are very sanguine as to a speedy termination of the insurrection.

With reference to the list of Austrian infantry in Bosnia and the Herzegovina which accompanied my despatch No. 7 of the 21st instant, I have the honour to report that the strength of the companies has now been raised to 200, which is equal to an increase of 20 per cent.

It was rumoured some time since, and then denied, that a Mussulman deputation proceeding from Gacko to Mostar had been massacred by the insurgents; such, however, appears to have been actually the case.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWD. B. FREEMAN.

No. 133.

Lord Lyons to Earl Granville.—(Received March 8.)

(No. 191.)
My Lord, *Paris, March 3, 1882.*

M. DE FREYCINET told me this afternoon that M. Marinovitch, the Servian Minister at Paris, had called upon him to inform him that owing to internal affairs in Servia it had become very important that the title of King should be taken by Prince Milan, who was strongly urged by the nation to assume that title at once. M. Marinovitch had then, M. de Freycinet said, proceeded to sound him as to the view which would be taken by the French Government of the erection of the Principality into a Kingdom.

M. de Freycinet had, he told me, promised M. Marinovitch to give him an answer on Monday next (three days hence), and he added that he should be very glad if, in the meantime, he could be made acquainted with the opinion of Her Majesty's Government on the matter. For his own part he was, he said, inclined to tell M. Marinovitch that the question was one which appeared to be chiefly an internal one affecting the Servians themselves, and that the French Government did not attach any great importance to it.

M. de Freycinet mentioned that the pecuniary difficulties into which Servia had been brought by the failure of M. Bontoux of the Union Générale had been spoken of by M. Marinovitch as one of the reasons which rendered the immediate assumption of the Royal title by Prince Milan particularly important.

Finally, M. de Freycinet told me that M. Marinovitch had said that so soon as he should have received the French answer he should go to London to treat the matter with your Lordship.

I have already had the honour to forward the substance of this despatch to your Lordship by telegraph.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 134.

*Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot.**

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March 9, 1882, 4 P.M.*

WHAT further account have you about Mr. Evans' arrest?

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* Also to Consul St. John.

No. 135.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received March 9, 11·30 P.M.)

(No. 12.)
(Telegraphic.) *Cettinjé, March 9, 1882, 8·10 P.M.*

AUSTRIANS commenced operations to take possession of Estrtunissei [*sic*] this morning.

Montenegrin Government has taken [? steps] necessary [group unintelligible] to maintain its neutrality.

It is reported that Austrians are progressing satisfactorily, and it is expected insurgents will either join those in Herzegovina or pass over into Montenegro, when they will be at once disarmed.

(Not sent to Constantinople.)

No. 136.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received March 9, 11·30 P.M.)

(No. 14.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, March 9, 1882, 9·30 P.M.*

I HAVE just seen the Under-Secretary of the Foreign Office, who said that no information about Evans had yet been received.

No. 137.

Consul St. John to Earl Granville.—(Received March 9, 11·30 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Ragusa, March 9, 1882, 9·30 P.M.*

THE only official communication received is this: that Evans is suspected of high treason.

No. 138.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received March 10.)

(No. 19.)
My Lord, *Scutari, February 27, 1882.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 124 of the 24th October last, communicating to your Lordship a translation of the Charter which Prince Nicholas had delivered to the inhabitants of Duleigno and its district on the subject of military service, public education, and the application of the religious laws of Islam, I have now the honour to report to your Lordship that I learn that the Montenegrin Government has just carried out the disarmament of the entire native populations of the districts of Antivari and Duleigno, and is enforcing the payment of a tax for exemption from military service of about 11*s.* 6*d.* per head by all males ranging from the ages of 15 to 50 years inclusive.

As nothing has occurred in the districts in question to lead to a supposition that the confidence originally placed by Prince Nicholas in the submission of the inhabitants was, to say the least, premature, I am forced to infer that the disarmament has been carried out lest the troubles now existing in the Bocche di Cattaro and the occupied provinces should involve Montenegro, when, perhaps, the newly incorporated Mahommedan inhabitants of the Principality might be tempted to avail themselves of the opportunity which would then offer itself of endeavouring to free themselves from Prince Nicholas' rule.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 139.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received March 10.)

(No. 21.)

My Lord, *Scutari, February 28, 1882.*

FROM reports reaching me from North-east Albania, I learn that considerable agitation has arisen among the Mahommedan natives there, from the impression that the Austrian troops are about to be advanced, under the terms of the XXVth Article of the Treaty of Berlin, as far as Mitrovitza.

They have, therefore, again commenced to bind themselves by solemn "bessas" (engagements) to collect on the first alarm and to proceed to Mitrovitza to oppose the Austrians.

As they also appear doubtful of the line of conduct that will be observed by the Turkish troops, reinforcements of which have lately been sent to Mitrovitza, the North-east Albanians have further bound themselves to fight, if necessary, against the Sultan's soldiers.

A new feature in the hostility to the advance of the Austrians in the Sandjak of Novi-Bazar is the loudly expressed determination of the Christian Slav Rayahs to assist the Mahommedans against all comers in their country, except the Servians, whose rule, they say, is the only one they are prepared to accept in exchange for that of their present masters.

The treatment of the Slav Rayahs by the Mahommedans is so severe and cruel that considerable pressure must have been used by the occult influences controlling them to make them express themselves in the above manner.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 140.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received March 10.)

(No. 22.)

My Lord, *Scutari, February 28, 1882.*

I HAVE not thought it needful to trouble your Lordship with copies of some recent despatches which I have had the honour of addressing to Lord Dufferin on the subject of the regularization of the flow of the three large rivers by which Scutari is surrounded—a matter of vital importance to this place, which has been much advanced by the valuable support extended to it by his Excellency at Constantinople—but I now venture to report to your Lordship, as a subject of more general interest, the language held by some of the local Mahommedan Beys at public meetings against the utility of the proposed hydraulic works.

These Scutari Beys, who have hitherto been able to evade all public charges, fearing that they will be obliged to bear their share of the intended outlay, have urged that it would be folly for the natives to spend money in the regularization of the rivers, in view of the probability that the province will shortly pass into the hands of Austria, Italy, or some other Christian Government, when the necessary works would have to be done at the expense of the new comer. Should this provision of impending change not be realized within six or seven years, have argued the Beys, there will still be time enough for native money to be expended on the needed remedy.

Such language, used by prominent Mussulman natives, and apparently tolerated by the Turkish authorities, affords a vivid picture of the state of uncertainty into which recent and passing events have thrown these regions.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 141.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received March 10.)

(No. 23.)

My Lord, *Scutari, February 28, 1882.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, the copy of a despatch I have this day had the honour of addressing to Lord Dufferin on the subject of some misunderstandings between the Mirdites and other tribes, and concerning the vigorous action of Dervish Pasha to put an end to the lawless proceedings of Faïk Bey at Tirana.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

Inclosure in No. 141.

Mr. Kirby Green to the Earl of Dufferin.

My Lord, *Scutari, February 28, 1882.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency, with reference to my despatch of the 14th instant, that Hadji Osman Pasha informed me this morning that he had succeeded in bringing about, through the medium of some Mahommedan Nobles, an amicable understanding between the Mirdites and the clansmen of the Great Mountains, and that he hopes the danger of a hostile outbreak between these mountaineers has thus been averted.

With regard to the lawless proceedings of Faïk Bey at Tirana, Dervish Pasha telegraphed a few days ago from Pristina to that place authorizing any one who should meet Faïk Bey or any of his band to shoot them. The reception of this telegram threw the Beys of Tirana into consternation as to the effect it would have on their feudal position, and they immediately dispatched a telegraphic reply to Dervish Pasha, assuring him that Faïk Bey had been calumniated, and that he was a peaceable member of society. Dervish Pasha, in return, with characteristic energy, ordered the Mutessarif at Tirana to imprison all those who had signed the exculpatory telegram.

This vigorous action has, notwithstanding Dervish Pasha's unpopularity in Albania, met with general approval.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 142.

Earl Granville to Consul St. John.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, March 10, 1882, 3·35 P.M.*

HER Majesty's Ambassador at Vienna reports that Mr. Evans' arrest is not known. Give further details as to charge against him, and why his departure was prevented.

No. 143.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 114.)

My Lord, *Foreign Office, March 10, 1882.*

I HAVE to call your Excellency's attention to the following point in connection with the Convention signed at Constantinople on the 24th May last for the settlement of the frontier between Greece and Turkey; and I have to request you to communicate with your colleagues who represent the Powers who were parties to that Convention, and to ascertain their views on the subject.

In Article 18 of the Final Act of the Commission of Delimitation established under Article I of the Convention it is stated that "the present Act shall be immediately submitted for the approval of the Governments of Germany, Austria-Hungary, France, Great Britain, Greece, Italy, Russia, and Turkey by their respective Commissioners."

In the case of the various Commissions of Delimitation which were established by virtue of the Treaty of Berlin, a formal note was exchanged between the Signatory Powers recording their sanction of the Acts collectively; and although in the present instance there appears to be some difficulty from the fact that with regard to some portion of the boundary the evacuation has not yet been completely carried out, Her Majesty's Government would be glad to learn whether the other Powers concerned are of opinion that it would be desirable to take any steps for recording their assent to the Act signed by the Boundary Commissioners.

Another point to which I request your Excellency's attention is that no copy of the Convention between Turkey and Greece provided for in Article XVIII of the Constantinople Convention of the 24th May, 1881, has been communicated to Her Majesty's Government. It would be desirable that Her Majesty's Government should receive a copy officially communicated by the Turkish Government.

I send a copy of this despatch to Mr. Ford, who will likewise be instructed to ask the Greek Government to communicate a copy of the Convention officially to Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 144.

Earl Granville to Mr. Ford.

(No. 32.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, March* 10, 1882.

I TRANSMIT to you a copy of a despatch which I have addressed to the Earl of Dufferin, calling his attention to certain points connected with the Convention signed at Constantinople on the 24th May last for the settlement of the frontier between Greece and Turkey.*

With reference to the latter portion of that despatch, I have to request you to ask the Greek Government to communicate officially to Her Majesty's Government a copy of the Convention between Turkey and Greece provided for in Article XVIII of the Constantinople Convention of the 24th May, 1881.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 145.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received March 10, 11 P.M.)

(No. 15.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, March* 10, 1882.

I HAVE inquired again at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs respecting Mr. Evans and the charge brought against him. They have no information yet beyond the fact of his arrest.

No. 146.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received March 11.)

(No. 5.)
My Lord, *Salonica, February* 26, 1882.

I HAVE made inquiries as to the state of brigandage in the Vilayet of Salonica during the last two months, and I now beg leave to submit the following information which I have procured on the subject:—

About seven weeks ago, Pharmaki, an Albanian Moslem, chief of a band of brigands, and one of his comrades, were attacked and killed by a military detachment in the vicinity of Mount Olympus.

A few days afterwards, the troops having obtained the services of a spy, a Christian peasant, surrounded a small forest in which Nicko (Colonel Synge's captor) and his band of eleven brigands were concealed.

On the attack being made, four members of the band were killed, while the remaining seven, with Nicko, contrived to effect their escape.

The soldiers decapitated the four brigands, and brought their heads into Catterina.

Very soon after this occurrence, the troops killed two other brigands named Spiro

* No. 148.

and Ichingané Vassil, whom they found separated from their band, cut off their heads and brought them to Catterina.

On the 1st instant a band of brigands, composed of seventeen individuals (eight Moslem Albanians and nine Christians), made a raid on the village of Nissi, in district of Caraferia, and not far from Trievista, Colonel Synge's estate. They carried off a young girl, 14 years of age, and the following day kidnapped three Christian well-to-do peasants of the village of Skina, in the same neighbourhood. The military detachment sent in pursuit succeeded in surrounding the band, and, during the encounter which ensued, killed eight of the brigands (five Mahommedans and three Christians) and effected the rescue of the four hostages.

The inclosed is an account of this well-planned and conducted pursuit, as published in the Local Government newspaper, the "Selanik."

Two new bands, composed of six and seven individuals respectively, which appeared in the neighbourhood of Mount Olympus towards the end of last month, have been captured and brought to Salonica, together with seventeen other brigands who had lately made their submission to the Commandant of Catterina, upon the understanding that they are to have a free pardon after they give bail to be of good behaviour.

It is said that among the captured outlaws there are two deserters from the Greek frontier troops known as the "Euzoni."

Two weeks ago, four other brigands, said to have belonged to these "Euzoni" troops, were pursued and destroyed by a patrol, in the vicinity of Litchoro, in the district of Catterina, and two captives whom they held to ransom effected their escape during the pursuit.

Again, on the day following this incident, a brigand chief named Caltek and one of his companions were attacked by another patrol at a short distance from Catterina. Caltek was killed on the spot, and his companion, slightly wounded, gave himself up, and has since furnished important information respecting certain individuals who befriended the brigands in Macedonia.

With the exception of Nicko, all the notorious brigand chiefs in the districts of Catterina and Caraferia have been disposed of; and there is some hope that Nicko and his band, now reduced to six individuals, will surrender themselves in despair of escaping the vigilance of the authorities. I have also the satisfaction to report to your Lordship that generally in the other districts of the Vilayet of Salonica, especially those contiguous to the Bulgarian and East Roumelian borders, the state of brigandage has considerably diminished.

No serious offences against the person or acts of robbery have been perpetrated in the Sandjaks of Serres and Drama within the last two months; the district of Cassandra is now perfectly quiet, and in that of Strommitza the authorities have been pursuing with more energy and success than heretofore the lawless class, which is chiefly composed of deserters from the army.

In the district of Vodina the situation has also improved since Dervish Pasha caused to be removed to Salonica and placed under police surveillance two local influential Beys of the Douzi family, who are accused of having assisted the movements of the notorious Albanian robber chief, Yanouz Ghega.

There has been no appreciable decrease in brigandage in the vilayet of Janina; on the other hand outrages and acts of highway robbery have diminished in most of the districts of the Vilayet of Monastir; but, from what I hear, this is due more to the severity of winter than to any special efforts of the local authorities.

I shall notice, in a separate Report, the situation of affairs in the Vilayet of Cossovo.

In conclusion, I should add that the success of the action of the Turkish authorities against brigandage in Macedonia, especially in the districts of Mount Olympus, is in a great measure due to a surcease of the political agitation which was carried on in connection with the Greek frontier question, and which ranged the majority of the Christian inhabitants in hostility against the Government. The people now manifest a better feeling and temper, and are more interested in bringing brigands to justice than in screening them as heretofore.

Dervish Pasha also deserves much credit for the vigilance and energy he has shown, and for the arrangements he has made for the protection of life and property; but, although I do not wish to underrate his services, I would venture to express the opinion that his measures, as set forth in the inclosed general order to the provincial authorities, if not supplemented by a properly organized gendarmerie, will only lead to a temporary lull than to a definitive suppression of brigandage.

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Nor do I think that public security can be effectually restored in the districts bordering the Greek frontier-line without some understanding between the Greek and Turkish Governments for joint action in the matter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 147.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received March 11.)

(No. 6.)
My Lord, *Salonica, February 26, 1882.*

WITH reference to the situation of affairs in the Vilayet of Cossova, I have the satisfaction to report to your Lordship that most of the Albanian and Bulgarian brigand gangs which infested the districts of Useup, Pristina, Getkan, and Comanova, and the country in the vicinity of the Bulgarian and Servian frontiers, have dispersed; and that I have heard from persons who have recently visited the Sandjaks of Novibazar, Prisrend, and Dibra that the Ghega Albanians in those provinces and the adjacent districts of Ochrida, Ipek, and Jacova are quiet, and apparently reconciled to the administrative arrangements made by Dervish Pasha. I am assured that the taxes are now more regularly paid, that cattle-lifting and blood-feuds, and other social disorders, are less frequent, and that generally the authority of the law is more felt and respected.

But my informants also state that this improvement in the situation may eventually be disturbed by the insurrection in the neighbouring Provinces of Herzegovina and Bosnia; and although they admit that at present there are no signs of political agitation on this side of the border, still they apprehend that the Albanians will be excited by their sentiments of nationality and religion to assist the movement should it spread southwards.

Some such apprehension is also harboured by the Austro-Hungarian military authorities in the Sandjak of Novi-bazar, for I know for certain that the General in command of the Austrian troops at Taslidza (Plevljé) has lately confidentially informed the Ottoman frontier authorities that large stores of arms destined for the insurgents in Herzegovina were concealed by Albanian Chiefs in the town of Mitrovitza. I should also add that Dervish Pasha's sudden departure for the Vilayet of Cossova, immediately after he returned here from his late tour in the Sandjaks of Drama and Serres, was for the purpose, I am credibly informed, of inquiring into the truth of the above report, and recommending, at the same time, to the serious attention of the Governors of Novi-bazar, Prisrend, and Ipek the necessity of carefully watching the frontier in order to prevent the Albanians giving any aid and encouragement to the rebels against the Austrian Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 148.

Sir A. Paget to Earl Granville.—(Received March 11.)

(No. 69.)
My Lord, *Rome, March 8, 1882.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith an extract from the "Italie" of last night, stating that M. Cristich, the Servian Minister accredited to the Courts of Italy and Austria-Hungary, arrived in Rome three days ago, for the accomplishment of the formalities relative to the elevation of Servia to a Monarchy, and yesterday communicated to M. Mancini the vote of the Skuptchina and the resolution of the Prince; and that M. Mancini stated, in reply, that he had yesterday sent the instructions necessary for the recognition of the new Kingdom to the Italian Minister at Belgrade.

This morning's papers publish a Stefani telegram stating that the Italian Minister at Belgrade, Chevalier Tosi, had addressed a reply to the Servian Minister for Foreign Affairs, to the effect that His Italian Majesty's Government welcomed with especial satisfaction the Proclamation of the Kingdom of Servia.

The telegram states further that Chevalier Tosi has asked for an audience

to enable him personally to offer the congratulations of the Italian Government to King Milan I.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

Inclosure in No. 148.

Extract from "L'Italie" of March 8, 1882.

LE ROI DE SERBIE.—M. Cristich, Ministre de Serbie près les Cours d'Italie et d'Autriche-Hongrie, est venu à Rome, il y a trois jours, pour les formalités relatives à la reconnaissance du titre du Roi que la Skupteina de Serbie allait conférer au Prince. M. Cristich a donné hier communication au Ministre Mancini de la délibération et de la résolution du Prince. Le Ministre Mancini lui a répondu aujourd'hui qu'il a expédié au Ministre d'Italie à Belgrade les instructions opportunes pour la reconnaissance immédiate du nouveau royaume.

No. 149.

Consul St. John to Earl Granville.—(Received March 11.)

Ragusa, March 11, 1882.

(Telegraphic.)
FROM what I gather, Mr. Evans has been imprudent in seeking information as a correspondent, but he denies being guilty of conspiracy.

No. 150.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received March 11, 5 P.M.)

(No. 17.) *Vienna, March 11, 1882, 4 P.M.*
(Telegraphic.)

I HAVE just seen Minister for Foreign Affairs, who could tell me nothing about Evans except that he had been arrested by the local judicial authorities upon their own initiative, and without instructions from here, in consequence of documents supposed to compromise him having been found.

Instructions have been sent to treat him with proper indulgence, and Minister for Foreign Affairs promises at once to let me know any information that he receives in regard to the case.

No. 151.

Consul St. John to Earl Granville.—(Received March 11, 5·10 P.M.)

Ragusa, March 11, 1882, 2·20 P.M.
(Telegraphic.)

IMPOSSIBLE that Mr. Evans' arrest should not have been known in Vienna. No details of the charge against him can be obtained before the termination of present secret inquiry.

No. 152.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received March 12, 6·45 P.M.)

(No. 13.) *Scutari, March 12, 1882, 12·45 P.M.*
(Telegraphic.)

FOLLOWING sent to Lord Dufferin:—

"Prince Nicholas has asked me to support an attempt he is making to settle directly with the Turkish Envoy the delimitation of the frontier on the Podgoritza Plain. His Highness has offered, without requiring compensation, to leave to Turkey the villages of Malagus and Vladuja, which, as appears by Sale's map of the 18th October, 1879, were awarded by Commission to Montenegro.

"Turkish Envoy has submitted matter to Porte, but has received no answer.

"It is [? possible] that the concession has been offered through the anxiety of the Prince to feel secure on the side of Albania; still, the Porte ought to bear in mind that the present state of affairs on the Austrian side is not likely to be permanent, and that if it delays a decision, it may suddenly find Prince determined to maintain his rights to the villages to which the Sultan has hitherto attached so much importance."

No. 153.

Mr. Lascelles to Earl Granville.—(Received March 13.)

E
(No. 22.)

Sophia, February 21, 1882.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of a despatch which I have received from the British Vice-Consul at Rustchuk relating to the rumours of the arrival of secret Russian agents in that town, *en route* for Servia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANK C. LASCELLES.

Inclosure in No. 153.

Vice-Consul Dalziel to Mr. Lascelles.

Rustchuk, February 13, 1882.

Sir,

MUCH has been said about the arrival of secret Russian agents here, and their going by this route to Servia. As far as my own knowledge goes, there is very little foundation for these rumours.

I should think it highly improbable that secret agents would be sent by Varna-Rustchuk to Belgrade when the Danube route is not open, and they have, in any case, to pass by Bucharest. It is much more likely that they would be sent direct by rail.

That there did arrive here lately a certain Doctoroff, who was formerly engaged in the Servian rebellion, is, however, perfectly true; he arrived from Bucharest, and returned there the following day.

There are, I believe, in town two officers and two non-commissioned officers, who have been the subject of a good deal of curiosity, all the more that they are clad in civilian habits, live at a small hotel, and do not frequent the military club.

I have been told that they made inquiries at some Jews' as to the possible quantities of forage to be had now in the country, and that they had a sort of consultation on one occasion in the club with General Lissowoi and other officers.

My Austrian colleague told me about the arrival of two waggons full of silver roubles from Varna for these agents. The silver, I know, did arrive; but I believe it is the property of the Bulgarian Government, who have been collecting it at Varna to withdraw it from circulation, on account of the approaching arrival of the new national silver money.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. H. DALZIEL.

No. 154.

Mr. Lascelles to Earl Granville.—(Received March 13.)

(No. 24.)

Sophia, February 24, 1882.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of a despatch which I have received from the British Vice-Consul at Rustchuk relative to the recruitment at that place of volunteers for the Bosnian insurrection.

I have asked M. Natchowitz whether he could give me any information on this subject. He replied that, in consequence of an application made to him by the Austro-Hungarian Agent and Consul-General, he had caused inquiries to be made at Rustchuk, and that he was convinced that there was no truth in the reports which

had been spread about. He pointed out that it would have been impossible for so large a number of men as 100 to have been enlisted and sent away from Rustchuk without the knowledge of the authorities, and he could assure me that the Bulgarian people were too adverse to fighting or to spending money to contribute in any way to a movement in which they were not directly interested.

I am informed that some Montenegrins and Dalmatians who were living in Sophia have recently left for the Herzegovina with the view, it is supposed, of taking part in the insurrection.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANK C. LASCELLES.

Inclosure in No. 154.

Mr. Dalziel to Mr. Lascelles.

Rustchuk, February 16, 1882.

Sir,

MY German colleague told me yesterday that he had conversed with a man who acknowledged himself a recruit for the Bosnian insurrection. This person is a Montenegrin. He said his pay is to be 40 fr. per month, two months' pay in advance.

M. Laringer estimates the numbers recruited here at about 100, and that they have been sent on foot, viâ Plevna, in about six detachments.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. H. DALZIEL.

No. 155.

Mr. Lascelles to Earl Granville.—(Received March 13.)

(No. 26.)

Sophia, February 25, 1882.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 178 of the 29th December last, and to your Lordship's despatches Nos. 4 and 12 of the 10th and 30th ultimo, I have the honour to report that I have called the attention of M. Natchovitch to the advisability of taking measures to remedy the grievances of the Turkish proprietors near Kustendil, in those districts which had been visited by the Commission.

M. Natchovitch said that he was sorry to inform me that all the documents connected with the Commission had been destroyed by fire. They had been placed for safety in the building in which the National Assembly used to hold its meetings, and were lost in the fire that consumed that building. He was afraid it would be necessary for the Commission to recommence its labours.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANK C. LASCELLES

No. 156.

Mr. Lascelles to Earl Granville.—(Received March 13.)

(No. 27.)

Sophia, February 25, 1882.

My Lord,

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 2 of the 9th instant, I have the honour to inclose a copy of a Memorandum drawn up by M. Voulcovitch in answer to the complaints of the Porte contained in Assim Pasha's despatch of the 22nd December last.

With reference to M. Voulcovitch's remarks on the subject of brigandage in Macedonia, I am bound to state that they do not accord with the account given by Nihad Pasha, as reported in my despatch No. 156 of the 12th November last, in which he states that the proposals for an arrangement came from the Porte, and that M. Voulcovitch, although he had admitted the necessity of coming to an understanding on the subject, had referred to the want of means of official communication as an insuperable obstacle to any settlement of the question pending between the two Governments with regard to the "Caisses des Orphelins." M. Voulcovitch argues that the state of these Caisses and the claims made upon them are sufficient to prove that it is not the fault of the Bulgarian authorities if this question has not already been settled.

With regard to passports, M. Voulcovitch states that it is the Turkish Government who refuse to acknowledge Bulgarian passports, and with regard to the demolition of State property, M. Voulcovitch states that the only properties which have been demolished were falling into ruin and had become dangerous.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANK C. LASCELLES.

Inclosure in No. 156.

Memorandum by M. Voulcovitch.

1. *Brigandage en Macédoine.*—Des bandes de brigands ne se sont jamais formées en Bulgaria, depuis la constitution de la Principauté. Aucune bande n'a été signalée au Gouvernement Princier comme ayant franchi la frontière.

Toutefois, comme sur toute frontière, il peut se rencontrer de temps en temps des maraudeurs qui profitent de la ligne-frontière.

Pour empêcher ces cas même, le Gouvernement Princier a proposé au Gouvernement Ottoman une entente commune à intervenir sur les mesures à prendre pour la sécurité des frontières. La Sublime Porte s'est toujours refusée.

Il nous semble que la Sublime Porte parle de brigandage sur nos frontières pour masquer ses fautes administratives dans la Macédoine, livrée toute entière au brigandage et à tous les désordres.

Quant à la menace que fait laSublime Porte de faire poursuivre les brigands au delà des limites de démarcation, nous espérons qu'elle se tiendra simplement à la menace, autrement elle verrait ses troupes repoussée par la force armée si elles tentaient de passer les frontières.

2. *Caisse de Orphelins.*—Avant de restituer les quotes-parts dues par les Caisses des Orphelins le Gouvernement Ottoman doit d'abord remettre les Caisses elles-mêmes et ensuite on doit examiner et constater leur situation.

Caisses emportées par les autorités Turques lors de leur départ du pays, soit :—

Rasgrad, Eski Djouma, Nicopolis, Plevna, Berkowtza, Kustendil, Doubnitza, Radomir, Statitza, Orchanie, Lovtscha, Osman Bazar, Baltchik, Trin, Tzaribrod, et Bresnik.

Caisse de Sophia restituée.

Caisse de Sistovo et de Tirnovo. Les documents sont entre les mains de la Commission, mais les Protocoles ne sont pas signés.

Caisse de Roustchouk, manquant 70,000 piastres, déficit constaté. Or, de quels héritages provient cette somme? À qui attribuer le montant de 20,000 piastres trouvées dans cette Caisse? Le caissier ne tenait aucun compte séparé; tous les comptes sont ensemble.

Caisse de Pravady, manquant 90,000 piastres, soustraites par l'ex-Caissier Ahmed Ziferoff.

Caisse de Sophia emportée par le Mouhassebedj de Sophia, ouverte par lui à Doubnitza. Celui-ci a pris les sommes à sa convenance!

On peut donc par ces Caisses juger des autres. En somme, aucune Caisse ne présente des comptes nets, toutes sont dans un désordre indescriptible.

Liste des Emigrés réclamant leurs quotes-parts (donnée par Nihad Pacha).

Caisse de Sophia.—Mehmed et Halil, frères mineurs; 86*l.* provenant d'une vente de boutique; émigrés à Sèves.

Mourad Bey, quote-part non indiqué. (?)

Caisse de Choumla.—Fils mineur du Major Youssouf Effendi, 3,839$\frac{3}{10}$ piastres, et intérêts.

Orphelin de Hafiz Moustapha Effendi, 5,600 piastres.

Caisse de Roustchouk.—Salik, 2,700 piastres, plus les intérêts.

Servet Hanem et Djemel Bey, quote-part non indiquée. (?)

Omar Effendi, quote-part non indiquée. (?)

(La Porte demande s'il existe une quote-part.)

Caisse de Widdin.—Abou Bekir (fils de Molla Hassan, somme non indiquée?)

Ahmed, fils, 7,300 piastres; or,

Abou Bekir et Ruchie, 12,630 piastres.

Caisse de Tirnova.—Omer Effendi, quote-part non indiquée. (?)

Orphelin de Hadji Ibrahim Effendi, 65*l.*

Caisse de Sistova.—Memich, 25,000 piastres; on demande les reçus.

Caisse Belgradjik.—Eminée, 575 piastres.

Caisse Kustendil.—Ahmed Hilmi, 1,203 piastres.

Caisse Plevna.—Séhra Hanem, 19,500 piastres.

La Loi sur la tutelle promulguée le 12 Octobre, 1881 (paru dans le "Journal Officiel" du 17 Octobre, No. 76), ainsi que le Règlement pour le fonctionnement des Caisses sanctionné par Ukase Princier du 7 Novembre (paru dans le "Journal Officiel" du 11 Novembre, No. 38), étaient, en outre, nécessaires pour régulariser la liquidation des Caisses des Orphelins.

En résumé, l'état où sont les Caisses et l'examen de plusieurs réclamations de quotes-parts, démontrent amplement que si la question n'est pas résolue ce n'est point de la faute des autorités Princières.

3. Bureau Spécial. Mosquée de Widdin. Déserteurs. Agents commerciaux Ottomans.

Questions traitées précédemment.

4. *Passeports et Permis de Route.*—Le Gouvernement Princier reconnaît que chaque pays a le droit d'avoir ses règlements et lois pour ce qui concerne les passeports, et par conséquent que les personnes qui veulent voyager dans un État doivent remplir les formalités exigées par cet État.

Le Gouvernement Princier n'a donc jamais réclamé contre de telles formalités, qui doivent être observées par les sujets Bulgares voyageant en Turquie.

Mais la Sublime Porte ne veut pas reconnaître le passeport Bulgare, car les autorités Turques, soit à Constantinople, soit partout ailleurs, dans les stations de chemin de fer, comme dans les débarcadères des ports, déchirent les passeports Princiers qu'ils demandent aux sujets Bulgares et forcent ces derniers à se munir de passeports ou teskérés Turcs.

Or, il nous semble qu'un sujet Bulgare partant, par exemple, de Varna pour Constantinople, ne peut évidemment posséder qu'un passeport Bulgare, et par contre, un sujet Bulgare partant de Constantinople pour Varna, doit évidemment être muni d'un passeport Bulgare, visé par les autorités respectives compétentes.

5. *Démolition des Propriétés de l'Etat.*—Il n'y a de propriétés de l'État démolies que celles qui étaient en ruine et qui menaçaient la sécurité publique, ou que celles dont la démolition est prévue par la Loi sur la voirie.

Du reste, ce fait ne porte aucun préjudice aux intérêts de la Sublime Porte, et la Commission prévue par l'Article XII du Traité de Berlin pourra toujours réclamer et obtenir ce qui de droit.

6. Dans les catégories désignées ci-haut se trouve le Medressé Sakali Ahmed Agha, composé de quatre maisons délabrées et inhabitables, qui ont été démolies pour faire la façade du nouveau Palais du Prince de Bulgarie.

Tach Mekteb était une construction de 9 mètres de façade sur 11 de profondeur, avançant dans la rue (à côté de la grande maison Hacjenoff) sur la route de Constantinople; vétusté et de délabrement elle a été détruite conformément à la Loi sur la voirie.

No. 157.

Consul Freeman to Earl Granville.—(*Received March* 13.)

(No. 9.)
My Lord, *Serajevo, March* 6, 1882.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 8 of the 28th ultimo I have the honour to inform your Lordship that the insurrection appears to be breaking up. In some few localities the peasants have returned to their homes, but most of the insurgents have passed into Montenegro, no opposition having apparently been offered by the Montenegrin cordon. I have been assured even that on more than one occasion the insurgents, when hard pressed by the Austrians, have been permitted to pass the frontier in the very face of the troops.

Whether the insurgents will, later, repass the frontier and renew the struggle it is as yet difficult to say, but unless they are materially aided by the neighbouring Principalities, or other sympathizers, I consider such a contingency improbable. Affairs in Crivoscie may also, perhaps, influence their actions. Your Lordship will recollect that from the first I expressed the conviction that the insurrection must collapse in a few weeks in the absence of all foreign assistance.

I will not weary your Lordship with any details regarding military movements, or trifling encounters with the insurgents, as the official bulletins are published in the

Vienna papers sooner and at greater length than here. The only important engagement that has occurred of late took place near Ulok, on the Upper Narenta, on the 26th and 27th ultimo, as the result of which the "Knez," or chief man of the district, tendered his submission.

The recruitment in these provinces, which was to have taken place in the course of this month, has been postponed, even in those parts of the country where tranquillity has not been disturbed, and no date has yet been fixed for its accomplishment.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWD. B. FREEMAN.

No. 158.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received March 13.)

E
(No. 169. Confidential.) *Constantinople, March 7, 1882.*
My Lord,

A VERY strong conviction prevails here in Turkish political circles that war between Russia and Austria is imminent, and I have learned, upon good authority, that it has been decided to increase the Ottoman army by 150,000 men. As, however, the execution of this project would require the command of considerable funds, of which the Porte is at present destitute, it may be doubtful whether it will be carried out.

The Sultan is fully persuaded of the imminence of the war, and he is said not to regard the prospect with alarm, as he imagines that, by allying himself with Austria, he might repair some of his recent reverses, and perhaps recover the Balkans.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 159.

Consul St. John to Earl Granville.—(Received March 13, 9·54 P.M.)

Ragusa, March 13, 1882, 6·40 P.M.
(Telegraphic.)

AUSTRIAN troops have occupied Crivoscie. Commander-in-chief has returned to Ragusa.

No. 160.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received March 14.)

(No. 100. Confidential.) *Vienna, March 8, 1882.*
My Lord,

THE Emperor, while speaking to me of the operations in the Herzegovina, has expressed himself as continuing to be extremly well satisfied with the conduct, both of the Prince and people of Montenegro.

His Highness urged his subjects to avoid giving just cause of complaint, and the latter, in spite of the sympathy which they naturally felt for insurgents of their own nationality, had, as a general rule, fairly carried out the wishes of their Prince.

I understood that the "mot d'ordre" in the Principality is the known Slavic phrase; "remain quiet," and though many may understand it to be a recommendation to remain quiet till the proper opportunity arrives for action, it has produced the desired effect.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 161.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received March 14.)

(No. 103.)
My Lord, *Vienna, March 8, 1882.*

I INFORMED your Lordship that, in my opinion, no difficulty would be raised by the Austro-Hungarian Government to the assumption of the Royal Dignity by the Prince of Servia, which appeared imminent, and such has proved to be the case.

The Imperial Government upon being informed of the intention, which has since been carried out, at once directed their Minister at Belgrade to intimate their recognition of the new King as soon as he was proclaimed

They were desirous, I imagine, to be the first to do so, and to make it impossible that they should be accused of only giving a grudging assent to a change desired by the Prince and people of Servia.

No exaggerated importance has been attached either by the Government or the public press to the step taken by King Milan, but if it tends to strengthen his own position as well as that of his present Government, and diminish the chances of any revolutionary or Republican movement, it will be regarded as an unequivocal advantage.

The Anti-Austrian party represented by M. Ristich, while he was at the head of the Servian Government, used to speak of the Proclamation of the Kingdom of Servia as a menace to be used against the Imperial Government, but they did not venture to put it into execution; but now a Government which has shown a disposition to cultivate friendly relations with the neighbouring Empire, have proved that an ambition dear to the Servian people can be gratified without risk of misunderstanding, and it is hoped that the Servians will become all the more convinced that they have more to gain than to lose by continuing in the same line of policy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 162.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received March 14.)

(No. 104. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, March 8, 1882.*

I TOOK an opportunity yesterday of speaking to the Emperor of the Proclamation of the Kingdom of Servia, and, remembering how strongly His Majesty had spoken against it when it seemed likely a year ago, I was curious to hear what his views on the subject were now.

As regards himself and Austria, the Emperor appeared perfectly indifferent to the step that had been taken, and he could only rejoice if it were found to strengthen the Monarchical principle and the position of King Milan.

Whether the moment was particularly well chosen was quite another question, but it was one for the Prince and his Ministers to decide, and His Majesty sincerely hoped that it might answer their expectations.

The Servian Government had acted with scrupulous correctness in regard to the Herzegovinian insurrection, and the Emperor was glad to have been the first to recognize the new King.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 163.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received March 14.)

(No. 110.)
My Lord, *Vienna, March 10, 1882.*

DURING the last week the progress of the Imperial troops in the Herzegovina has continued to be satisfactory, and the capture of the important position of Ulok has given them the command of the bridge on the Narenta, in the district which was the stronghold of the insurgents.

The total loss up to the present time is stated to be about 120 men (including ten

officers) in killed and wounded, while that of the insurgents is altogether uncertain; but the latter are represented as being now dispersed into numerous small bands with little probability of being able again to form bodies of anything approaching to the strength of those in which they were at first found.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 164.

Consul St. John to Earl Granville.—(*Received March* 15.)

Ragusa, March 15, 1882.

(Telegraphic.)

SINCE departure of Commander-in-chief from Crivoscie, troops are daily attacked by the insurgents.

Hostilities there will probably continue indefinitely.

No. 165.

Earl Granville to Prince Jon Ghika.

E

Foreign Office, March 16, 1882.

M. le Ministre,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your note dated the 27th ultimo, but communicated on the 5th instant, recapitulating the objections entertained by your Government to the claims of the Holy Places being looked upon as an international question.

You are aware that the matter has been submitted to the Powers in a Circular from the Porte, and I beg to assure you that full consideration will be given to the arguments contained in your note in any discussion on the subject which may take place with the other Governments.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 166.

E

Memorandum as to execution of Articles XI and LII of Treaty of Berlin respecting razing of Bulgarian Fortresses.

"ARTICLE XI.

"L'ARMÉE Ottomane ne séjournera plus en Bulgarie; toutes les anciennes forteresses seront rasées aux frais de la Principauté dans le délai d'un an ou plus tôt, si faire se peut; le Gouvernement Local prendra immédiatement des mesures pour les détruire et ne pourra en faire construire de nouvelles. La Sublime Porte aura le droit de disposer à sa guise du matériel de guerre et autres objets appartenant au Gouvernement Ottoman et qui seraient restés dans les forteresses du Danube déjà évacuées en vertu de l'Armistice du 31 Janvier, ainsi que de ceux qui se trouveraient dans les places fortes de Schoumla et de Varna."

"ARTICLE LII.

"Afin d'accroître les garanties assurées à la liberté de la navigation sur le Danube reconnue comme étant d'intérêt Européen, les Hautes Parties Contractantes décident que toutes les forteresses et fortifications qui se trouvent sur le parcours du fleuve depuis les Portes de Fer jusqu'à ses embouchures seront rasées et qu'il n'en sera pas élevé de nouvelles. Aucun bâtiment de guerre ne pourra naviguer sur le Danube en aval des Portes de Fer, à l'exception des bâtiments légers destinés à la police fluviale et au service des Douanes. Les stationnaires des Puissances aux embouchures du Danube pourront toutefois remonter jusqu'à Galatz."

Down to July 1880 no progress had been made with the razing of the fortifications of Shumla and Rustchuk; and at Widdin the work of demolition was stopped by orders from Sophia. Mr. Goschen, No. 132, July 12, 1880. Mr. White, No. 94, July 9, 1880.

No serious steps have been since taken by the Bulgarian Government to carry out the provisions of the Articles above mentioned.

The following is the account given by Vice-Consul Dalziel of a visit to Silistria with his Italian colleague at the beginning of September 1880:— Mr. Goschen, No. 368, September 20, 1880.

"We then drove up to Arab Tabia, the fort so much disputed between Roumans and Bulgars, and which remains still in possession of Bulgaria. I found that it, as well as its outlying works, had been carefully destroyed.

"On Tuesday morning I sent to the Commandant for the permission to visit Medjidie Tabia, but he being again out, and having left no message for me, I could not get it. I felt as if I was being played with, so called on the Austrian Steamboat Agent, who has a sort of recognized official position, and got him to accompany me to the Prefect in order to impress on him that he was incurring considerable responsibility by the turn affairs had taken. Fortunately the Commandant himself arrived at the konak while we were there, and at once gave me a soldier to accompany us to the fort, at the same time telling me that it was all a mistake to suppose that there were troops in it; that as long as it was an ammunition-store there was a guard, but now that no ammunition remained it was unoccupied. In effect, we found the place unoccupied; there were, however, the remains of a recent fire and a lot of fresh melon skins, showing that some one had been there very lately.

"Nothing whatever has been done to destroy this fort according to the Treaty of Berlin, and, except that the accidental explosion of a powder-magazine destroyed that particular chamber, the place remains as it was when evacuated by Selami Pasha.

"Mustafa Pasha Tabia, the third and most western fort, has been knocked about by the elements, and also by the hand of man, though by no means so carefully as Arab Tabia. It might even be conceded to be sufficiently razed if it stood alone, although it evidently will be much easier to enlarge existing ditches and parapets than to make them from the commencement, supposing that a necessity for such work was to occur.

"All the other forts are merely subsidiary earthworks to these three principal ones, and a show of filling in the ditches has been made.

"As to the town walls, they, like those of Rustchuk, have had the most valuable stones removed for building and paving purposes, but are otherwise untouched. The barracks in their forts are still serviceable had they a few doors and windows replaced, and the four powder-magazines and other warehouses in the town are all intact, the magazines being more or less full of ammunition."

In October 1880 the Austro-Hungarian Government furnished the subjoined information in return for particulars supplied by Her Majesty's Government with regard to the state of affairs in Bulgaria:— Sir H. Elliot, No. 691, Confidential, October 27, 1880.

"*Etat des Forteresses Bulgares.*—Presque toutes les forteresses de la Bulgarie dont le Traité de Berlin stipule la démolition complète se trouvent encore dans le même état qu'immédiatement après l'évacuation par l'armée Russe, c'est-à-dire ne sont démantelées qu'en partie et à la rigueur elles pourraient être mises en état de défense moyennant des travaux d'une exécution facile. Dans plusieurs places fortes on avait commencé déjà la démolition en se servant du matériel pour des constructions d'utilité publique, ou bien en le vendant à ceux qui voulaient s'en servir, lorsqu'un ordre du Ministre Princier de la Guerre vint arrêter ce procédé. On a même dans certains endroits armé les forts restés intacts, de pièces d'artillerie d'un gros calibre, comme par exemple à Roustchouk.

"En ce qui concerne la forteresse de Widdin, qui compte outre la citadelle six forts détachés et la redoute de Yénikalé, les Russes ont commencé la démolition de quelques-uns de ces forts. Ces travaux étaient continués plus tard et quatre têtes-de-pont ainsi qu'une des portes et quelques autres ouvrages furent détruits, mais la citadelle avec tous ses accessoires est encore en bon état. Il en est de même du fort principal de Roustchouk nommé Levend-Tabia. A Schoumla on n'a rasé que le fort avancé dit "de l'Étoile,' et un autre petit ouvrage avoisinant. A Silistrie on n'a pas même commencé les travaux de démolition—notamment le fort Médjidié Tabiassi paraît être en bon état—tandis qu'à Varna ces travaux sont restés inachevés, de manière que non-seulement le pentagone qui forme le fort principal, mais également les batteries qui entourent la ville et les fortifications qui couronnent les hauteurs environnantes, pourraient facilement être rendues propres à la défense."

Mr. Lascelles, No. 122, September 27, 1880.

On the 27th September Mr. Lascelles was instructed to state to the Bulgarian Government that Her Majesty's Government had learnt with much regret that the provisions of the Treaty of Berlin, with regard to the demolition of the old forteresses, had not been carried out at Shumla or Rustchuk, and that at Widdin the work of demolition had been stopped by orders from Sophia.

Mr. Lascelles, No. 163, October 30, 1880.

These instructions Mr. Lascelles carried out verbally, and, by a note on the 25th of the following month, M. Zancoff, the Bulgarian Minister for Foreign Affairs, stated to him that most of the stonework at Shumla and Rustchuk had been removed, and that he believed that what remained was in a dilapidated condition; that the demolition of the earthworks would entail great expense; and he explained that the stoppage of the demolition works at Widdin was on account of the fortress having, on the demand of the Minister of War, been retransferred to his Department from the Municipality under whose charge it had been.

Mr. Lascelles, No. 167, November 1, 1880.

Mr. Lascelles also saw the Prince of Bulgaria on the subject. His Highness informed him that he had desired General Ehrnrooth to prepare a reply to his representations, and he assured Mr. Lascelles that enough had been done to make the fortresses perfectly useless from a military point of view. His Highness also said that he would be glad if a Commision of foreign officers could be formed to report upon the fortresses and decide the question as to whether any further demolitions were necessary.

Mr. Lascelles, No. 170, November 13, 1880.

The written reply of the Bulgarian Government came in the form of a note from M. Zancoff, inclosing a letter to himself from General Ehrnrooth, the tone of which letter was described by Mr. Lascelles as flippant and sarcastic. It admitted that the fortresses had not been literally razed, but it contended that they were in such a state of dilapidation that it might fairly be considered that the provisions of the Treaty had been carried out, and that the fortresses had lost all their importance from a military point of view, and that it would be easier to erect new fortifications than to restore the old ones. General Ehrnrooth was of opinion that if the Great Powers persisted in attributing any importance to the fortresses in their actual condition, it was indispensable that they should point out the particular fortifications they wished to see demolished, as otherwise the Bulgarian Government would be exposed to further complaints with regard to ruins which had no interest except for archæologists.

M. Zancoff's note stated that for the past three months the fortresses had been placed under civil administration, and that the demolition would be carried out gradually, the materials being used for works of public utility, and that with regard to Widdin, the wall could not be pulled down, as it formed the quay, and kept back the flood-water from the town.

This answer of the Bulgarian Government was officially communicated by it to the Representatives of the other Treaty Powers, and it was not considered satisfactory by the Austro-Hungarian Government. Baron Haymerle stated to Sir Henry Elliot that the demolition might be carried out for 20,000*l.*, that no money had been expended on it, and the Treaty had not been fulfilled.

Sir H. Elliot, No. 749, November 24, 1880.

To Sir H. Elliot, No. 762, November 22, 1880.

To Sir H. Elliot, No. 795, December 10, 1880.

Sir H. Elliot, No. 810, December 22, 1880.

Her Majesty's Ambassador at Vienna had been instructed to consult the Austro-Hungarian Government on the proposal made by Prince Alexander for a Commission of foreign officers, and after the receipt of the Bulgarian reply to Mr. Lascelles' representations, his Excellency was further directed to inquire whether the Imperial Government would be willing to remonstrate either jointly or singly respecting the non-fulfilment of Articles XI and LIII, or whether they thought it desirable first to obtain more precise information as to the state of the fortresses by *the appointment of an International Commission of military officers as suggested by Prince Alexander. Baron Haymerle thought the Prince's suggestion should be adopted*, but he limited to an inquiry whether the Bulgarian fortresses had or had not been demolished according to the provisions of the Treaty of Berlin. The Austro-Hungarian Government had, his Excellency said, continually made representations to the Bulgarian Government, but that Government did not think it necessary even to show the courtesy usual among civilized countries, and the insolence of General Ehrnrooth's answer was an example of the way in which the representations of individual foreign Agents were received.

On the receipt of this answer from the Austro-Hungarian Government, instructions were prepared for Mr. Lascelles, directing him to make representations to the Bulgarian Government, but they were not sent. The language held by Count Károlyi gave Lord Granville the impression that the Austro-Hungarian Government did not propose to take any independent step in the matter, but that it was their idea that any representations that might be made should be made jointly by all the

To Sir H. Elliot, No. 7, January 6, 1881.

Powers; and Lord Granville told his Excellency that he would give the question consideration.

Musurus Pasha communicated a despatch on the subject from the Porte on the 1st January, 1881, and spoke to Lord Granville about it on the 3rd. His Excellency was informed that Her Majesty's Government were in communication with other Powers.

Porte, March 17, 1881.

Again, in March last, the Porte called attention to the intact state of the fortresses; and last October the non-fulfilment of the Treaty stipulation with regard to them was mentioned by the Turkish Prime Minister as one of the Sultan's grievances; and in a note dated the 3rd November, the Porte stated that not only were the Bulgarian fortresses still standing, but that they had been powerfully armed, and the fortresses at Rustchuk had been mounted with Krupp guns.

Earl of Dufferin, No. 908, October 13, 1881.

Porte, November 3, 1881.

Her Majesty's Agent in Bulgaria was directed to make inquiries, and he reported (23rd December) that M. Voulcovitch, the Foreign Minister, assured him that, although they had not been razed, the fortifications were allowed to go to ruin, and that the masonry was gradually disappearing, being used for building purposes. The Fortress of Levau Tabia was, he said, used as an arsenal, and arms and ammunition were kept there. He was not aware whether there were any Krupp guns, and he promised to make inquiries on this point, as also with regard to the barracks for 400 men, to which his attention had been directed. He assured Mr. Lascelles that nothing had been done to place the fortress in a state of efficiency.

To Mr. Lascelles, No. 28, November 24, 1881.

Mr. Lascelles, No. 173, December 23, 1881.

These explanations were communicated to Musurus Pasha on the 23rd January. On the 27th his Excellency communicated a despatch from the Porte, insisting on the complete execution of the Treaty stipulation, and Lord Granville told him that it might possibly be a question whether, for practical purposes, it would not be sufficient to allow the fortresses to fall into ruin by process of time and by use of the materials for other purposes; but there certainly was nothing in the language of the Treaty which would justify any part of the fortresses being used as an arsenal, and Her Majesty's Government would be ready to join with the other Powers in any representation which it might be decided to make to the Bulgarian Government.

To Musurus Pasha, January 23, 1882.

Porte, January 13, 1882.

To Earl of Dufferin, No. 64, February 4, 1882.

Her Majesty's Ambassador at Vienna was informed of this conversation. He had, on the 25th January, reported that the Turkish Ambassador there had made on the previous day a renewed representation to the Austro-Hungarian Government, and that Count Kilmoky, in speaking of it to Sir Henry, said that the justice of the complaint of the Porte was so indisputable that, after the manner in which Turkey had executed the provisions of the Treaty, which imposed such heavy sacrifices upon her, it seemed scarcely possible to disregard the appeal, though he felt embarrassed as to the action which could be taken upon the question. His Excellency did not regard the explanations of the Bulgarian Government as convincing or sufficient.

To Sir H. Elliot, No. 61, March 4, 1882.

Sir H. Elliot, No. 31, January 25, 1882.

(Signed) F. L. BERTIE.

March 18, 1882.

No. 167.

Consul St. John to Earl Granville.—(*Received March* 20.)

(No. 15)

Ragusa, March 1, 1882.

My Lord,

A PRIVATE telegram from Cettinjé announces that some thousands of Herzegovinians, principally from the district of Gacko, have migrated into Montenegro, where great difficulty exists for their accommodation and subsistence.

They are said to have taken no part in the insurrection, but to have been compelled to leave in consequence of the arbitrary Austrian administration.

I have, &c.

(Signed) C. ST. JOHN.

No. 168.

Consul St. John to Earl Granville.—(*Received March* 20.)

(No. 17.)

Ragusa, March 3, 1882.

My Lord,

THE Herzegovinians mentioned in my despatch No. 15 of the 1st instant who have taken refuge in Montenegro are said to number 5,000. The greatest difficulty

appears to exist for supplying them with the necessary means for subsistence, and fears are entertained that if some plan is not speedily devised for their relief many—especially women and children—must perish from exposure and hunger, which, it is apprehended, will cause great irritation among the Slav population of other countries, and tend to complicate matters. Austria, I have good authority for stating, promised assistance, but her offer has been declined by Montenegro—probably at the suggestion of the Russian Minister, who has taken the affair in hand, and is expecting a ship-load of grain from Odessa destined for the use of the inhabitants, but which will now have to be given to the refugees.

The reason assigned for so extensive an emigration of a people that took no part in the insurrection, at all events so far as women and children are concerned, is the destruction of their villages, the burning of their grain, and the hitherto arbitrary conduct of the Austrian military. Indeed, it is not surprising that a population who have known nothing but persecution for centuries, and whose condition has not improved under Austrian rule, should take alarm at the vast operations about to take place against them, and seek refuge in a country where, if they have to suffer privation, at all events they will be kindly treated.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. ST. JOHN.

No. 169.

Mr. Lascelles to Earl Granville.—(Received March 20.)

(No. 31.)
My Lord, *Sophia, March 10, 1882.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 171 of the 13th December last, I have the honour to report that Nihad Pasha has returned to Sophia and resumed his post as member of the Commission for the settlement of questions relating to State property and vacoufs.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANK C. LASCELLES.

No. 170.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received March 20.)

(No. 183.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, March 11, 1882.*

I HAVE to report that a few days ago a Russian transport, called the "Moscowa," which belongs to the so-called volunteer fleet, anchored in the Bosphorus with 700 soldiers on board, whom she is transporting from Nicolaieff, in the Black Sea, to Vladivostock, on the eastern coast of Siberia.

The arrival of the vessel with such a cargo, without any previous communication having been had with the Porte, caused considerable dissatisfaction to the Sultan, and the "Moscowa" was requested immediately to proceed upon her voyage. She had, however, already started before the order reached her.

The Russian Embassy contends that the soldiers were passengers, and were unarmed, and, consequently, that it was not necessary to obtain the previous assent of the Turkish Government to the anchoring of the vessel.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 171.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received March 20.)

(No. 129.)
My Lord, *Vienna, March 17, 1882.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship two despatches which have been addressed to me by Lieutenant-Colonel Primrose on the subject of the state of the insurrection in Dalmatia and the Herzegovina.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 171.

Lieutenant-Colonel Primrose to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Vienna, March 15, 1882.*

THOUGH it is premature to consider the Austro-Hungarian difficulties in the south as being over, or the recent successes of the troops as decisive, yet of late the progress of events there has been at least distinct, and an opinion may be formed of their direction.

It must be remembered that the campaigns in Herzegovina and Dalmatia are due to similar causes, and directed against a concerted resistance. Though the original opposition was due in the two cases to different enactments, the revolt of the people of the Krivosje instigated and fomented that of the herdmen of the Zagorje, and of late, so the Emperor himself informed me, there is little doubt that leaders and reinforcements have been freely interchanged between the two insurgent parties.

This, of course, has been effected through Montenegro, for though the Government of Prince Nicholas has loyally striven to remain neutral, it is impossible for it to guard its open and serrated frontier against the active sympathies of the population.

It is not supposed, however, that any foreign element has been introduced into the contest, and the accounts published of Russian aid and participation are discredited, if only for the reason that sufficient time has scarcely been given them to get to the front.

At the same time, it is well known that a number of Muscovite filibusters have wandered from Russia into Bulgaria, and will doubtless work their way to the scene, attracted by similar ideas as those that led to their interference in Servian affairs during 1878.

The Montenegrins have, without doubt, given much negative help to the present insurrection. The wives and families of the insurgents, to the number of several hundred, have taken refuge on their territory and been supported by their charity, and though the Austrian Government has offered to disburse these expenses the offer has been refused.

Arms and ammunition have also been supplied by the Cerna Gora, and for the last month the forces of the Krivosjianers have been largely augmented by men and leaders from Foca and elsewhere.

Thus the struggle is purely that between a Slav population and a Government enforcing its decrees by the energy of mixed troops comprising, among others, thirty Slav battalions, and it speaks well for the coherence and discipline of this army that there never has lingered a doubt of the subordination of its private partialities to the call of duty.

In Herzegovina operations have as yet been confined to the incessant action of small flying columns pushing up the creeks and folds of the pitiless hills an invisible enemy, who appear now as shepherds, now as soldiers, always as brutes, and who from their emptiness and elasticity might be almost compared to indiarubber balls.

It is hard to trace the history of all the detached skirmishes, since the outbreak of the war, where the Imperial troops have been always pressing on a foe that rebounds directly after the attack, but in Dalmatia affairs have taken a more determined turn; a combined plan has been put into execution, and with a little strategy, results have been obtained by a very trifling loss (one killed and thirteen wounded) which have called for the most exuberant delight in Vienna.

General von Jovanovics, who commands the troops in Dalmatia and south-east of the Narenta, had succeeded in establishing himself at Risano on the 9th February. From thence moving on a front of small columns, ten columns of six or eight companies each, he captured the heads of the passes leading to the plateau of Dragalj.

March 8 and 9.—Advancing the following day, when signal-fires from the mountains announced the arrival of a flank brigade moving from Trebinje, over the ridge of a mountain called Orjen, 3,300 feet high, he took Dragalj, the insurgents, who had made a slight stand against the flank movement at Pazun, retiring precipitately south-west to Macia Planum, where they now remain.

They made the following day an attack on their former position, but without success, and their withdrawal into Herzegovina is shortly to be expected.

The Emperor has aptly described the whole situation as really an absurd one, the

outcome of a wish to obtain seven or eight recruits. This has led to the formation of an army over 60,000 strong, and an estimated expenditure of about 3,000,000*l.* His Majesty deprecated to me all idea of the troops having been called out to drive recruits to the conscription lists. "It was they"—the recruits—"who chose to rise. It can never be permitted that the law should be broken with impunity, and now that the fight has begun there is an end to all concession. The people of Dalmatia for the future will be treated exactly like their fellow-subjects, but their district will be strongly garrisoned, and posts will be established at every available point.

"The mistake was in withdrawing the troops too soon from Bosnia. The expense was great, the army of occupation was reduced, and this emboldened all malcontents."

For the mobilization of the troops summoned for active service an increase in the peace establishments was gradually made by calling in the reserves. At first the companies, usually about 70 strong, were raised to 100 each. Now in Dalmatia they are 150 strong, in Bosnia 200 strong, while the five battalions on the Lim territory remain as they were, at 100 each. It was not necessary to add to their strength. The Turks have reinforced their garrison there by three battalions, and act in full harmony with the Austrians. The district, too, in their vicinity is quite tranquil.

The calling in of the reserves was done nominally, commencing by the youngest man on the list. One officer (the junior) was also taken in a similar way from the reserve for each company, and, as it may be expected, this took no small time, for on an ordinary mobilization no selection would be made.

Two lines of communication are used, one by Metkovic and Mostar, the other by Gravosa and Trebinje. The sea connects these with the base at Trieste. It was found too difficult to use Serajevo as a base of supplies from want of roads, consequently the troops in the Zagorje have been entirely provided from Mostar.

"This has all been admirably done. The men have never wanted for food, and their subsistence has been always from preserved meat. In mountain warfare each mountain battery of the Austrian service mobilizes a train squadron of 3 officers, 197 non-commissioned officers and men, and 20 Government horses, and 250 horses requisitioned from the districts near the seat of war. In this case horses have been found without strain, as many as 500 having been freely given up by the proprietors at Teodo.

The troops have had to overcome great obstacles, and, continued the Emperor to me, "I am at a loss to understand how they can support the hardships entailed on them by the harassing nature of their service, and the little definite result.

"From all sides, too, I have received reports of the terrorism exercised by the chiefs of the insurrection on the villagers.

"In many cases the houses have been burnt, and the available males forced away to join in a movement they disowned. When men could not be impressed, food and clothing were taken, families being left to starve. Everywhere the solid schools and watch-houses have been wantonly destroyed, and no small sum of money will be required, not only to restore these, but erect a chain of forts and defensive posts against the frontier.

"Foca is the centre of disturbance in the Herzegovina. There the misery of the inhabitants is so great that we have had to feed and otherwise support them for some time."

It is said that these disbursements and other expenses will lead to a further demand on the Delegations for 25,000,000 florins.

His Majesty went on to observe:—

"Of course it is very satisfactory to learn how well the soldiers have behaved, how readily they have surmounted difficulties, and cheerfully rushed against strongly held positions, but at the same time it is the worst tactical education they could receive. Here we have been teaching them for years to move as compactly as is compatible with the fire against them, relying on supports and reserves. There they are compelled to act in small parties in a wide development of front. The company is found too large for the command of one officer, and a loose struggling formation becomes the normal attack."

I must add to this Report a detail of the troops mobilized, to correct that furnished by Consul St. John, 27th February, 1882. A complete order of battle is at present impossible to furnish, as the troops are too much dispersed, and in some cases have not been definitely brigaded. Two General officers, Obadich and Dahlen, sent

to assist General von Jovanovics from their several commands, have not yet been definitely posted, but my list gives the head-quarters of the regiments, and an approximate state for the whole army.

A sketch also accompanies it to illustrate the places mentioned.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EVERARD PRIMROSE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 171.

Statement respecting the Army in Bosnia.

GENERAL in command, Lieutenant-General Baron Dahlen.
Chief of the Staff, Colonel Schwitzer.
1st Division, Lieutenant-General Nemethy, at Serajevo.
1st Brigade, Major-General Kukulj.
25th Regiment (Hungarian), Colonel Trautsch, at Plevlje.
18th Battalion of Jägers (Bohemian), Major Hüring, at Priepolje.
Detached Brigade at Foca, under Major-General von Obadich.
77th Regiment (Polish), Colonel Ott.
2nd Brigade, Major-General von Leddihn.
1st Regiment (Silesian), Colonel Lichtenberg, at Serajevo.
75th Regiment (Hungarian), Colonel Hotze, at Serajevo.
80th Regiment (Polish), Colonel Kövess, at Visegrad.
Detached Brigade in the Zagorje—
51st Regiment (Hungarian), Colonel Arlow, at Kalinovič.
62nd Regiment (Hungarian), Colonel Langer, at Rogatica.

Each brigade has a mountain battery of four guns attached to it, with its accompanying train of 200 all ranks, and 270 horses.

There are four squadrons of cavalry—detached from the cavalry garrisons of Croatia.

There are four companies of Engineers, two of Pioneers, and the proportionate sanitary detachments.

20th Division at Dolna Tuzla, General Braumuller.
39th Brigade, Colonel Schmetzer, at Dolna Tuzla.
64th Regiment (Hungarian), Colonel Pisačič, at Bjelina.
65th Regiment (Hungarian), Colonel Pecchio, at Dolna Tuzla.
The other brigade of this division remains at Essegg.
13th Division at Banjaluka, Lieutenant-General Joclson.
25th Brigade, Major-General Risch.
9th Regiment (Polish), Colonel Pelikan. (The 1st Battalion at Maglaj, the 2nd Battalion at Zenica, the 3rd Battalion at Zepce, to occupy the valley of the Bosna.)
66th Regiment (Hungarian), Colonel Jauski, at Trawnik.
11th Battalion of Jägers (Bohemian), Major Przedak, at Livno.
26th Brigade, Major-General Vaux.
12th Regiment (Hungarian), Colonel Schroft, at Bihac.
78th Regiment (Croatian), Colonel Certic, at Banjaluka.
22nd Battalion of Jägers (Bohemian), Major Mantis, at Banjaluka.

In total, 28 guns, 42 battalions, 4 squadrons, 6 companies, and subsidiary services, or 34,235 combatants.

Each mountain battery has 4 guns, 101 non-commissioned officers and men, and 60 horses.

A company of Engineers musters 210 combatants.

Troops in the Herzegovina and Dalmatia under command of Lieutenant-General Baron von Jovanovics:—

(General Jovanovics, as an exceptional circumstance, commands all the troops acting south-east of the Narenta; he is junior to General von Dahlen.)

Chief of the Staff, Lieutenant-Colonel Slameczka.
18th Division, at Mostar, Lieutenant-General von Schauer.
1st Brigade, Colonel Naus.
3rd Regiment (Moravian), Colonel Löw.
Detached Brigade at Nevesinje, Major-General Czveits.
71st Regiment (Hungarian), Colonel Fabricii.

Detached Brigade at Gacko, Major-General Sekulic.
6th Battalion of Jägers (Bohemian), Major Horrak; and 20th Battalion of Jägers (Tyrol), Major Forster, at Nevesinje.
8th Battalion of Jägers (Styrian), Major Heller, at Gacko.
3rd Brigade, at Stolac, Major-General Reicher.
11th Regiment (Bohemian), Colonel Czibulka, at Stolac and Ljubinje.
As a reserved Brigade at Ragusa are the—
35th Regiment (Bohemian), Colonel Waltherburg.
43rd Regiment (Hungarian), Colonel Krafft.
Mountain Division at Trebinje, Major-General Kober.
2nd Brigade, Colonel Babich.
16th Regiment (Croatian), Colonel Kokolovic.
20th Battalion of Jägers (Styrian), Major Keil.
Detached Brigade at Bilek, Colonel Galgotzy.
22nd Regiment (Dalmatian), Colonel Kranilović; half-battalion at Castelnuovo; half-battalion at Bilek; 1 battalion at Cattaro; 1 battalion at Mokrinje. (This regiment really acts independently.)
67th Regiment (Hungarian), Colonel Etener, at Bilek.
7th Battalion of Jägers (Camista), Major Rungg, at Bilek and Korita.
47th Division, at Cattaro, Major-General Winterhalter.
93rd Brigade:—
14th Regiment (Austrian), Colonel Schäringer.
24th Battalion of Jägers (Bohemian), Major Sommer.
34th Battalion of Jägers (Salzburg), Major Asthold.
10th Kaiser Jägers (Austrian), Major Wiktorin.
1st Kaiser Jägers (Bohemian), Lieutenant-Colonel Pokorny.
3rd Battalion of Jägers (Austrian), Major Kaliwoda.
(All echeloned along the Boeche.)

Each brigade has a mountain battery and its train attached to it. There are three batteries at Cattaro; there are besides the usual sanitary detachments.
There are 2 companies of Engineers and 2 of Pioneers; no cavalry.
In Bosnia 37 battalions are 800 strong each; 5 are 400 strong each.
In Dalmatia they are all 600 strong each.
In total, 40 guns, 40 battalions, and 4 companies, or 25,906 combatants.
At Ragusa besides there is the normal garrison artillery of 4 batteries.

(Signed) EVERARD PRIMROSE, *Lieutenant-Colonel.*

March 15, 1882.

Inclosure 3 in No. 171.

Sketch Map of Disaffected Districts in Herzegovina and Dalmatia, showing Head-Quarters of Divisions and Brigades.

Inclosure 4 in No. 171.

Lieutenant-Colonel Primrose to Sir H. Elliot.

Vienna, March 17, 1882.

Sir,

I HAVE just received from Zara, in Dalmatia, an account of the feeling excited along the coast by recent events, which is not uninteresting. My informant can be confidently trusted, and bases the report upon conversations held at dinners with Prince Nicholas of Montenegro on the 8th March, and with Lieutenant-General Baron von Jovanovics at Cattaro the following day.

The sentiments of the Austrian officers are said to be bitterly expressed against the English, whom they accuse of favouring the insurgents, and even of supplying them with ammunition and arms.

A vessel bound with a cargo of hay from Malta to Spalato was seized at the commencement of the month and found to have rifles concealed in the trusses.

The alleged presence of a woman named Alice Erle with the Slavs, and the arrest of another English subject, Mr. Evans, at Ragusa, have done much to increase the

irritation. The latter had promised to write no more letters to the "Manchester Guardian" or other paper on the subject of the war, and had been allowed to take a passage out of the country, when among the papers of a certain Spiridion Gopčević, who was subsequently arrested, letters were found addressed to him by Evans, proving Evans to have been in correspondence with the leaders of the revolt. He is known, besides, to have visited the insurgent camp and supplied it with money.

Baron von Jovanovics declared that, in his opinion, two months would be enough to entirely subdue all opposition in Dalmatia and Herzegovina. His Highness of Montenegro, however, said that the insurrectionary movement is undoubtedly spreading, and that the Mahommedans of Bosnia are joining its ranks.

Besides the centres of disturbance west of Dragalj and Foca, considerable bands of discontents have been marked along the Servian frontier, and the total number of those in arms in Bosnia and Herzegovina is estimated at 5,000. If this total be correct, it would comprise the whole male population of the Zagorje, but such estimates must be taken with caution, as they rest on the most insufficient data. The Austrians have rarely succeeded in coming close to their antagonists, much less capturing them, therefore it is hard for them to say in what numbers they exist.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EVERARD PRIMROSE.

No. 172.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received March 20.)

(No. 130.)

My Lord, *Vienna, March* 17, 1882.

THE capture of Dragalj, which I reported to your Lordship by the last messenger, was not followed by the immediate submission of the rest of the Crivoscia, as seems at first to have been expected.

The insurgents, on the contrary, showed two days later that they had not altogether lost heart, and made a vigorous attack upon the Imperial troops, which continue, however, gradually to occupy the points deemed of importance.

Many of the women and children have passed into Montenegro, where the necessity of finding them provisions proves an inconvenient expense to the Principality.

The report that has been circulated of the intended mobilization of the Montenegrin army is stated here to be altogether untrue, though, as the relations between the two Governments continue to be uninterruptedly good, the calling out of a few more Montenegrin soldiers for the purpose of maintaining the cordon would be seen here with satisfaction rather than the reverse.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 173.

Assim Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to Earl Granville by Musurus Pasha, March 20.)

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Sublime Porte, le 7 Mars,* 1882.

J'AI l'honneur de vous transmettre ci-joint copie d'un Acte par lequel les Patriarches Grecs de Constantinople, d'Alexandrie, d'Antioche, de Jérusalem, et l'Archevêque de Sinaï protestent contre la Loi récemment votée par la Législature Roumaine pour la vente de l'hôtel de Serban-Voda, propriété de la communauté du Mont Athos.

Je vous prie de communiquer cette protestation au Gouvernement auprès duquel vous êtes accrédité, et de l'amener à faire parvenir à Bukharest les représentations nécessaires pour la remise de la vente projetée jusqu'à la solution de la question des couvents dédiés.

Veuillez, &c.

(Signed) M. ASSIM.

Inclosure in No. 173.

Protest signed by the Patriarchs of Constantinople, Alexandria, Antioch, and of Jerusalem, and the Archbishop of Sinai.

Constantinople, le 15 *Février*, 1882.

Excellence,

LES Soussignés viennent d'apprendre par le "Moniteur Officiel" de Bukharest que la Chambre de Roumanie, dans sa séance du 21 Janvier, année courante, a voté une Loi en vertu de laquelle le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté le Roi Charles I est autorisé à vendre à la Banque Nationale Roumaine, au prix de 800,000 fr., l'hôtel Serban-Voda, propriété de la communauté du Mont Athos.

Les Soussignés voient avec douleur que le Gouvernement Roumain, persistant dans sa conduite à l'égard des Saints-Lieux, continue à procéder à des aliénations d'immeubles formellement interdites par les stipulations internationales qui ont réglé le mode de solution de la question des couvents dédiés. Aussi se trouvent-ils dans la nécessité de protester de nouveau auprès de la Sublime Porte, et par son intermédiaire, auprès des Grandes Puissances, contre cette vente, et de se référer aux protestations qu'ils ont formulées dans des circonstances analogues le 25 Septembre, 1868, le $\frac{1}{13}$ Avril, 1871, et le $\frac{16}{28}$ Novembre, 1877.

Les Soussignés saisissent avec empressement cette occasion pour renouveler à votre Excellence l'expression de leur profonde gratitude pour les démarches que, dans sa haute sollicitude en faveur des droits des Saints-Lieux, le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan, notre gracieux Souverain, a dernièrement encore faites auprès des Cabinets des Grandes Puissances, afin de hâter la solution que les Traités Internationaux ont prescrite à la question des couvents dédiés. Confiant dans cette sollicitude, nous nous permettons d'attirer de nouveau la bienveillante attention du Gouvernement Impérial sur la situation pénible où la prolongation de ce conflit, qui date depuis bientôt vingt ans, a réduit les communautés. En portant à la connaissance de votre Excellence cette récente aliénation commise par le Gouvernement Roumain dans le moment où, sur l'initiative de la Sublime Porte, une entente commune s'établit entre les Cabinets Européens pour la mise à l'exécution des décisions arrêtées sur ce sujet, nous ne doutons pas que votre Excellence ne veuille bien, dans sa haute sagesse, donner une sérieuse impulsion à cette question en faveur de notre cause, à laquelle la Sublime Porte daigne accorder une si juste protection.

Agréez, &c.

(Signé) JOACHIM, *Patriarche de Constantinople.*

Le Métropolitain de Skythopolis,

(Signé) GERASSIMOS, *Représentant des Patriarches d'Alexandrie, d'Antioche, et de Jérusalem.*

ARCHIMANDRITE PORPHYRIUS, *Représentant de l'Archevêque de Mont Sinaï.*

No. 174.

Assim Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to Earl Granville by Musurus Pasha, March 20.)

Constantinople, le 16 *Mars*, 1882.

(Télégraphique.)

LES informations qui nous arrivent de Thessalie présentent la situation des populations Musulmanes des territoires cédés comme devenant de plus en plus intolérable.

À peine la Convention du 24 Mai, 1881, a-t-elle été exécutée que des plaintes fondées ont commencé à surgir, et à l'heure qu'il est le fonctionnement du nouveau régime est loin d'être séduisant.

Nous n'avons cessé de donner aux plaignants des conseils de modération et de patience, en leur faisant espérer qu'avec le temps tous les torts dont ils avaient à souffrir seraient réparés.

Malheureusement, ces assurances ont été complètement démenties par les faits. La situation se manifeste aujourd'hui par le manque absolu de sécurité des personnes et des biens des Musulmans dans les territoires cédés.

Ainsi, dans la nuit d'avant-hier, Dervich Effendi, Notable, habitant d'Adiulé, village sis à cinq heures de distance de Larisse, a été brûlé vif dans sa maison, avec

toute sa famille, composée de sept personnes, parmi lesquelles des enfants en bas âge. On est presque sûr que l'incendie a été allumé par des mains criminelles.

Dans la même nuit, au village Musulman de Kechirli, à quatre heures de distance de Larisse, un certain Djélil a été assassiné, son fils blessé, ses objets de valeur enlevés, et son moulin incendié.

Ces actes de cruauté inouïs se passent de tout commentaire. Je vous prie de les signaler à l'attention sérieuse du Gouvernement près duquel vous êtes accrédité, et de l'amener à faire faire à Athènes des représentations énergiques, ayant pour objet la découverte et la punition des coupables, aussi bien que la stricte exécution de cette clause de la dite Convention, qui garantit la sécurité de la vie et des biens aux populations Musulmanes des territoires cédés.

No. 175.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received March 22.)

(No. 31.)

Cettinjé, March 10, 1882.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that this evening, after a dinner at the Palace, to which all the diplomatic corps had been invited, Prince Nicholas took the Turkish Envoy and me aside and said, appealing to me, that he hoped I would use my best endeavours to bring about a friendly understanding on all matters between himself and Riza Bey.

His Highness continued that it was now more than a week since he had authorized his Excellency to inform the Porte that he was prepared to waive his claims to the villages of Matagus and Vladnja, on the Podgoritza Plain, which had been declared as within his frontiers by the Delimitation Commission.

His Highness being aware of the great importance which Hussein Pasha had led the Sultan to believe these villages possessed for Turkey, had determined to show His Imperial Majesty the consideration attached by him to his wishes; but, notwithstanding that his offer was free of all claims for compensation, it remained as yet unacknowledged and unanswered.

Riza Bey expressed the hope that before long he would receive a reply from the Porte, whilst I assured the Prince that I was always prepared to assist in smoothing away difficulties of the nature of the present one.

Later in the evening, after we had left the Palace, the Turkish Envoy inquired of me whether I could see any objections to the acceptance of the Prince's offer, and I had no hesitation in replying that I thought wisdom would be shown in acting up to it with alacrity, for although His Highness might really desire to defer to the Sultan's wishes, still I thought it very probable that the existing state of affairs on his northern borders had more to do with his wish to feel secure from molestation in one of the weakest points of his Albanian frontier than anything else. I added that, if, when the insurrection in the occupied provinces was suppressed, the Porte was still considering the value of the Prince's offer, I felt convinced His Highness would be found to have changed his mind on the subject.

Riza Bey therefore begged me to telegraph to Lord Dufferin my view of the case.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 176.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received March 22.)

(No. 32.)

Cettinjé, March 11, 1882.

My Lord,

NOW that active military operations have commenced on the part of the Austrian troops around the Montenegrin northern and western confines, I have again been informed by Baron Thœmmel, the Austrian Minister Resident, that Prince Nicholas and his people are observing with the greatest strictness their international obligations of neutrality towards Austria-Hungary.

Baron Thoemmel also tells me that the operations commenced on the 9th instant against the Grivosciens had been intended to force these people on to Montenegrin territory, where they would have doubtless been at once disarmed; but, owing to the

broken nature of the country, the Austrian troops had arrived on the edge of their own territory, whilst the rebels had been able to remain hidden in the rocks behind them.

The women and children of the insurgents had, however, already passed over into Montenegro.

Baron Thœmmel believes that serious fighting is still likely to occur, as the troops must dislodge the Crivoscians from their lurking places, after which the Austrian garrison in the Bocche will be immediately reduced to their former peace footing.

The Fort of Dragai was blown up yesterday afternoon by the orders of General Jovanovitch, as it was no longer of any military value, having been built thirty years ago as a frontier post between Austrian and Turkish territories.

Although Baron Thœmmel informs me that it will be impossible for the Crivoscians to escape into the Herzegovina, here, in Cettinjé, I am assured that they can penetrate there whenever they wish, and that, as soon as they do so, the districts of Bilek, Gatsko, and Nevesinjé, which have been recently kept quiet through the Prince's influence, will again join the insurrection.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 177.

Earl Granville to General Menabrea.

Foreign Office, March 22, 1882.

M. l'Ambassadeur,

ON the 11th instant your Excellency made verbal inquiry: (1) as to what reply Her Majesty's Government intend to return to the recent communication of the Roumanian Government as to the proposal to refer to arbitration the question relative to religious foundations (Lieux-Saints); and (2) what action Her Majesty's Government propose to take with reference to the loss of life and property inflicted on British, Italian, and other foreign nationalities in Tunis, by reason of the disturbed state of the country and the apparent inability of the authorities to take proper measures for the protection of the public.

In regard to the first of your Excellency's questions, I have the honour to inform you that the Roumanian Representative has been told that his communication will be borne in mind in any discussions which may take place on the subject with other Powers.

In regard to losses by foreigners in Tunis, Her Majesty's Government do not propose to take any action at present.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 178.

Mr. Ford to Earl Granville.—(Received March 24.)

(No. 39.)

Athens, March 17, 1882.

My Lord,

AT the meeting of the Chamber yesterday M. Tricoupi made a Ministerial statement, a translation of which I have the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship, from the Report of it as published in M. Tricoupi's paper, the "Hora."

M. Tricoupi laid at the same time on the table of the House a Bill to ratify the Convention concluded between Greece and Turkey on the 2nd July last, which was then read for a first time, and will probably be passed on Monday next.

M. Tricoupi also laid on the table of the House a Bill annulling the Royal Decrees which had been issued last year for the administration of the newly-ceded provinces. Copies of these Decrees were forwarded by me to your Lordship in my despatches No. 263 of the 2nd December and No. 273 of the 23rd of that month.

Several of these Decrees related to the electoral districts to be created in the newly-ceded provinces, but as the election of the Deputies from them was not invalidated at the meeting of the Chamber, the Deputies are considered as duly returned, and will retain their seats.

Other Decrees related to the establishment of Law Courts in the newly-ceded provinces. By the terms of M. Tricoupi's Bill the Royal Decrees will be annulled, and

the laws at present in force in the Kingdom of Greece will be made applicable to the new provinces. It is possible that many of the Judges appointed in virtue of the Royal Decrees will be removed, but all sentences pronounced up to the present in the different Law Courts established in the provinces will be held valid.

M. Tricoupi in his statement lays particular stress on the importance of keeping the army and navy in a state of thorough efficiency. He draws a somewhat gloomy picture of the political condition of the East, and points to the probability of a crisis breaking out at no distant period, when Greece may not find herself in a position either to protect the territory she has already acquired, or to strike a blow for those lands which M. Tricoupi considers as of right belonging to Greece.

M. Tricoupi in his statement severely criticizes the action of the late Government in having assumed the responsibility, without the consent of the Chamber, of concluding international engagements; and a rumour is current in Athens, although I do not place much faith in it, to the effect that the Chamber may even go so far as recommend the impeachment of M. Coumoundouros, the late Minister, for what are termed his illegal and unconstitutional acts whilst in office.

M. Tricoupi, in referring to foreign affairs, congratulates himself on the good relations at present existing between Greece and foreign Powers, and he dwells on the importance he attaches to the maintenance of close and cordial relations with Turkey as the true policy for Greece to adopt in working out her national destiny.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANCIS CLARE FORD.

No. 179.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received March 25.)

(No. 27. Most Confidential.)

My Lord,

Cettinjé, March 9, 1882.

YOUR Lordship is already aware that attempts have been made to fix the responsibility of the present insurrectionary movement in the occupied provinces on the Turkish Government; but whilst acknowledging that these accusations come entirely from Russian and Montenegrin quarters, and are probably launched to cover their own intrigues, I still venture to record them in a despatch, as they are reported to me in a formal manner.

I am assured that Riza Bey, the Turkish Envoy here, is the channel through whom the Sultan or the Porte communicates with the Mahommedan insurgents in Bosnia and the Herzegovine. It is asserted that the Bey is in constant intercourse with them, and that messengers leave or arrive at the Turkish Legation from the disturbed localities almost nightly.

The Montenegrin Government is perfectly aware of these proceedings, but does not feel bound to prevent or denounce them. It is, however, somewhat surprising that they do not yet appear to have been perceived by Baron Thoemmel, or to have raised the suspicions of any other Austrian authorities, although the very active use by the Porte and its Envoy of the telegraph, which traverses Austrian territory, must have been observed, and cannot have been accounted for by the supposition that Riza Bey is merely reporting to his Government passing events, and receiving instructions thereon.

To me Riza Bey has spoken with considerable warmth and indignation on what he terms the atrocities that are being committed by the Austro-Hungarian troops against both Christians and Mahommedans, and he has declared to me that the insurrection can only be terminated by the annihilation of the Moslem population in the occupied provinces.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 180.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received March 27.)

(No. 10.)
Salonica, March 11, 1882.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for the information of your Lordship, copy of a despatch with one inclosure I have this day addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople on the subject of the repression of brigandage in the Vilayet of Salonica.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 180.

Consul-General Blunt to the Earl of Dufferin.

Salonica, March 11, 1882.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that the Turkish troops assisted by columns of the native volunteers organized by Dervish Pasha have had some further successful encounters with the brigands in this vilayet. Within the last fortnight three Greek brigand chiefs, namely, Cokino, Navum, and Stavraki, who had long exercised their calling and done much mischief in Macedonia, have been pursued and killed.

On the 7th instant, a whole band composed of twelve Turks was captured in the district of Cavalla. All of them had Martini rifles in their possession.

An official telegram reached this five days ago reporting that a military detachment had succeeded, after a long pursuit, in attacking a band of eight Bulgarian robbers in the district of Stroumnitza. Five of the robbers were shot down and the remainder captured.

The Kaïmakam of Djuma also telegraphically reports the destruction of a small band of five Bulgarian robbers who had recently committed depredations in the vicinity of the border.

My correspondent at Catterina writes most hopefully of the improving condition of that district, and bears testimony to the active and vigorous efforts of the local Commandant, Colonel Salih Bey, to restore order and tranquillity, and I am glad to say that the Sultan, as your Lordship will learn from the inclosed extract from the "Selanik" newspaper, has promoted this officer to the rank of Major-General in recognition of his services in the matter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 180.

Extract from the "Salonica Gazette" of February 25, 1882.

(Translation.)

IT is announced, in a telegram just received by his Excellency the Governor-General, from the Minister of War, that Salih Bey, a Colonel in command of that portion of the Imperial troops that has been employed for some time past in the district of Catterina, and who in the work of the suppression of brigandage has made such strenuous and praiseworthy efforts, has been promoted to the rank of Major-General, and thereby receives the title of Pasha; it is also announced that this officer has been informed by telegraph of the fact of his promotion and of the Imperial injunction that he should continue to hold his present command in the district above mentioned.

Although the district of Catterina being more infested by brigands than any other district, there has been no cessation there on the part of the brigands in the commission of every possible outrage and crime, yet, as the result of the carefully laid and promptly executed designs of the above-mentioned officer (Salih Bey) and owing to the strenuous and continuous efforts he has made, the greater number of these brigands have either been killed or brought in prisoners. We are therefore highly gratified to be able to announce in this paragraph that this officer's zeal and devotion

being made known at the head-quarters of the vilayet, and favourable mention having been made thereof in the proper quarter by his Excellency the Governor-General, His Most Gracious Majesty the Sultan has thought fit to raise him to the rank of Pasha, as a reward for his meritorious services.

No. 181.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received March 27.)

(No. 194.)
Constantinople, March 17, 1882.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of a despatch addressed to me by Mr. Vice-Consul Blakeney, in which he gives an account of the risk incurred by Mr. Philip Stanhope and his party of being captured by brigands during a journey he recently made in Albania.

Previous to the reception of this despatch I had been in telegraphic correspondence with Mr. Kypriotis on account of the refusal on the part of the Vali of Janina to give Mr. Stanhope a proper escort, the Vali stating that he could not spare so many soldiers. In consequence, however, of my representations at the Sublime Porte, the Ottoman authorities took the nececsary precautions to ensure the safety of the party.

I would venture to call your Lordship's special attention to Mr. Blakeney's remarks as to the insecurity of the country and the danger to which English travellers are consequently exposed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 181.

Vice-Consul Blakeney to the Earl of Dufferin.

(Confidential.)
Prevesa, March 4, 1882.

My Lord,

IT will perhaps interest your Excellency to learn that Mr. Stanhope appears to have run a great risk of being captured by brigands, for Mr. Kypriotis reports to me confidentially that his intention to visit Janina was known there before he (Mr. Kypriotis) had received my letter acquainting him of it, and further, that two days after Mr. Stanhope's arrival there, he discovered that the brigand chiefs, Stavrakis and Sulistis, were at Suli, which shows that they, too, knew of it, and that a plan for his capture was being prepared. Fortunately, however, instead of proceeding that way, Mr. Stanhope by mere chance took the road to Philipiades, and thus avoided falling into their hands.

I cannot find words to express my anxiety whenever English travellers or sportsmen visit the country, not only on account of the insecurity that prevails, but for their persistence, I will almost say, to disregard the sincere advice that is tendered to them.

I beg leave, however, to remark that Mr. Stanhope is an exception to this rule, for without the slightest difficulty he gave up the idea of visiting Suli, and took the road traced out for him by Colonel Zahir Bey and the Mutessarif, and thanks to which he no doubt escaped being captured.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. A. BLAKENEY.

No. 182.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received March 27.)

(No. 201.)
Constantinople, March 20, 1882.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of a despatch which I have received from Captain Jones with reference to a report current at Sophia, that the Porte had announced to the Powers its intention to occupy the Balkans.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 182.

Consul-General Jones to the Earl of Dufferin.

Philippopoli, March 13, 1882.

My Lord,

ON the 10th instant I had the honour to telegraph to your Excellency to the effect that a telegram had been received by the Finance Director here from the Secretary of the Prince of Bulgaria, asking if it were true that the Porte had addressed a Circular to the Powers to announce its resolution to occupy the Balkans with a military force.

It appeared to me that this telegram, from the manner in which it was sent, was designed probably to create uneasiness and distrust of Turkish interference in this province, but I have since learnt from Mr. Lascelles that it was sent consequent on information received from the Bulgarian Agent at Constantinople, that the Porte had announced its intention of occupying militarily the frontiers of Bulgaria, Macedonia, and Eastern Roumelia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY M. JONES.

No. 183.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received March 27.)

(No. 207. Confidential.)

Constantinople, March 21, 1882.

My Lord,

IN my despatch No. 183 of the 11th instant I mentioned to your Lordship the dissatisfaction felt by the Porte at the passage, without notice, through the Bosphorus of a Russian ship with a battalion of soldiers on board.

Since then the Ottoman Government has received an application from the Government of Russia for permission for another ship to pass through with exiles destined for the Pacific Coast in charge of a military guard. Assim Pasha submitted to the Russian Ambassador that such a demand was entirely inconsistent with the sovereign rights of the Porte, that the Bosphorus was an integral part of the Turkish Empire, and that Turkey could not allow foreign troops to traverse her territory.

On this the Russian Ambassador observed that it was impossible that Russia should consent to be shut up in the Black Sea; that it was very unadvisable for the Turkish Government to moot the question, inasmuch as the opening of the Suez Canal had entirely altered the aspects of the case, and rendered it absolutely necessary for Russia to insist upon an intermediate transit from the Black Sea to her Pacific possessions.

Assim Pasha is most anxious that your Lordship should well consider the pregnant character of this communication.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 184.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received March 27.)

(No. 34.)

Scutari, March 17, 1882.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 5 of the 19th January last, I have the honour to report to your Lordship that the Montenegrin Government has named M. Gaveo Vukotich as its Commissioner for treating with Chekib Bey the questions of Vakoufs in the annexed territories, and other financial matters pending between the Porte and the Principality.

M. Gaveo Vukotich was, about two years ago, for some time Montenegrin Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople, and, I understand, gained both the esteem of the Porte and the Ambassadors by his conciliatory bearing.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 185.

Consul Freeman to Earl Granville.—(Received March 27.)

(No. 10.)

Serajevo, March 22, 1882.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that the news from the disturbed districts continue to be reassuring. The district of Zagoria is reported to be quite free of insurgents and the Herzegovina appears to be tranquil. Towards the Sandjak of Novi Bazar and the frontiers of Servia there are still some insurgent bands of more or less strength, which have even, on one or two occasions lately, attacked convoys and isolated military posts, but in general the small bands which are still met with retire before the troops without offering resistance. It will no doubt be some time before the country is quite cleared of these small bands and perfect tranquillity restored, but there is every reason to hope that the insurrection has been successfully mastered and will not again assume serious dimensions. Indeed, with the large military force now in the country, such a contingency appears almost impossible. This force can hardly, however, be reduced for some time to come, as many of the commanding positions in the lately disturbed districts, which have been strongly occupied by the troops, must be held till all fear of any further outbreak be passed, and until the recruitment has been successfully accomplished.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWD. B. FREEMAN.

No. 186.

Earl Granville to Mr. Ford.

(No. 39.)

Foreign Office, March 28, 1882.

Sir,

I TRANSMIT herewith a copy of a telegram from the Porte, which was communicated to me by the Ottoman Ambassador on the 20th instant, alleging that on the night of the 14th of the month a Notable named Dervich Effendi, living at Aidiule, a village near Larissa, was burnt alive in his house with his entire family, and that the fire is attributed to incendiarism; and that on the same night, at Kechirli, a Mussulman village in the same neighbourhood, a man named Djélil was assassinated, his son wounded, his valuables carried off, and his mill burnt.*

I have to instruct you to inquire and report to Her Majesty's Government as to the truth of these statements.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 187.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received March 29.)

(No. 12.)

Salonica, March 17, 1882.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for the information of your Lordship, a translation of a Circular Instruction of the Porte to the Provincial Governors, relative to the liability of the Circassian and other refugees in Turkey to be drawn for the conscription.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 187.

Extract from the "Cossova Gazette" of February 13, 1882.

(Translation.)

THE following is a copy of a General Order sent to his Excellency the Governor-General by the Prime Minister, dated the $\frac{16th}{28th}$ January, 1882:—

"A Special Ministerial Council having, after due deliberation, arrived at a

* No. 174.

decision touching the liability to serve in the Imperial army of those of the Circassian refugees who left their native country after the Crimean war, and who, their term of exemption having expired, are now established in the Ottoman dominions, formally made known the same to the Minister for War, who, in reply, has announced that this decision be carried into effect as follows, viz.: that all Circassian refugees who, since the Crimean war, have left their native country and changed their place of residence, as well as those who on the last occasion left Sukhoum and Batoum, and those again who left their native country on the occasion of the breaking out of the late war, shall henceforth serve their allotted time in the army, beginning from next year, with the exception of those who immigrated this year. As regards the arrangements to be put into force in accordance with the law regulating the military service of different years, of those refugees who emigrated in the first instance and are now settled, only those who entered Turkish territory in the year 1277 are liable henceforth to be drawn for the conscription beginning from this year, whilst those who left their native country in and previous to the year 1276 are exempt from conscription, and those who have served in the regular forces for a period of six years are excepted from service in the 'Redif' and 'Mustakhfiz' forces. But inasmuch as, it being necessary that the Roumelian and Anatolian refugees who are established should without further delay have some cognizance and experience of military service, it would be neither right nor proper, considering their present wretched condition, that they should be treated in a way that is opposed either to principle or precedent, of the refugees which come under this denomination, only full-grown men who immigrated in the year 1278 will be liable to be drawn for the conscription, beginning from the year 1298. The remainder, who, being full-grown men, immigrated in or previously to the year 1277, will not be liable to be so drawn, but will be drafted into the 'Redif' branch of the service. To such men as have served six years with the regular forces 'tezkérés,' notifying draft into the 'Redif' and 'Mustakhfiz' branches of the service, will be given according to their respective ages. Moreover, the Sukhoum refugees who are established will be drawn for the conscription, receiving exactly similar treatment to that experienced by the original refugees, beginning with next year, *i.e.*, by those who, having immigrated in the year 1278, will be liable to be drawn at any time, beginning with the coming year 1298; while the others, viz., those who immigrated in or before the year 1277, will be held exempt from the conscription, and also an exception will be made in favour of others who have served with the regular forces for a term of six years, in the matter of service in the 'Redif' and 'Mustakhfiz' branches of the army."

The above newly-issued Regulations having been officially communicated by telegraph to all Field-Marshals in command of His Imperial Majesty's troops, as well as to their deputies, the matter should be notified to all Governors-General and Mutessarifs holding independent positions, in order that they may be promptly observed and carried into effect in every particular.

No. 188.

Consul Longworth to Earl Granville.—(*Received March* 29.)

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(No. 3.)

Volo, March 20, 1882.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith copy of a despatch I have this day addressed to Her Majesty's Minister in Athens reporting cases of outrages on Mahommedans in Thessaly.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. Z. LONGWORTH.

Inclosure in No. 188.

Consul Longworth to Mr. Ford.

Volo, March 20, 1882.

Sir,

I REGRET to have to report the following acts of outrages perpetrated on Mahommedans in Thessaly:—

1. On the 26th February Ismail Effendi was cut to pieces at Karademerli.
2. On the 1st March Hussein Bey was atrociously murdered and robbed at Larissa.

3. On the 15th March Dervish Effendi, his wife, three children, and two servants were put to death by incendiaries.
4. On the 16th March Jalil Agha and his son were assassinated, their mill burnt, and their house pillaged.

In not one of these crimes have the authors been discovered, and, as a consequence, the alacrity of the Hellenic police is open to very unfavourable criticism.

That, since the annexation, only Mahommedans should have been the victims of such atrocities is rather remarkable, and somewhat significant when taken in connection with the fact, that they are also subject to a series of petty insults and annoyances from their Christian countrymen.

The Mussulmans are naturally stricken with fear by these events, and, consequently, it is not to be wondered at that some ten Moslem families had just transferred their residence into Ottoman territory.

Unless, therefore, prompt and exceptional measures for the protection of the Mahommedans in Thessaly are adopted by the Hellenic Government, the emigrational movement among these people will become general, for it must be confessed that they have reasonable cause to fear lest the ill-feeling of the Christians towards them should break out in all the activity of a systematic persecution.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. Z. LONGWORTH.

No. 189.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(*Received March* 30.)

(No. 35.)

Scutari, March 20, 1882.

My Lord,

OBSERVING that considerable importance has been given in the Austrian press to a report that the Montenegrin army has been mobilized, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that the military organization of Montenegro does not require any lengthened preliminary arrangements for placing the whole adult population of the Principality on a war footing. This can be accomplished in a few hours, and the entire Montenegrin army can be concentrated on any given spot of the country's frontiers within a term of four days.

However, the suspension, during the last few days, of all public works, and the dismissal of the workmen to their homes, may possibly be a military measure, intended to secure the presence of the men in their own military districts. The excuse advanced to me in explanation of the cessation of the public works is, that the finances of the Principality are in a somewhat unsatisfactory condition, but, as far as I can learn, they were in no better state when the undertakings were first resolved upon.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 190.

Earl Granville to Mr. Lascelles.

(No. 25.)

Foreign Office, March 30, 1882.

Sir,

I APPROVE your having called the attention of the Bulgarian Government to the statements contained in Mr. Dalziel's despatch No. 2 of the 25th January last as to an abuse of power on the part of the subordinate authorities in the Mussulman village of Orankioi, as reported in your despatch No. 21 of the 21st ultimo.

I am, &c.

(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 191.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 158.)

Foreign Office, March 31, 1882.

My Lord,

INSTANCES have recently occurred of British travellers in disturbed districts of the Ottoman Empire incurring considerable risk of capture by brigands through

their disregard of the warnings of British Consular officers or of the Turkish local authorities.

In some cases such travellers have demanded and obtained a sufficient escort of Turkish troops to insure their safety, but it is not desirable that the Turkish soldiery should, at the request of Her Majesty's Consular authorities, be detached from their ordinary duties in order to attend upon travellers journeying on mere pleasure excursions; and I have to request that your Excellency will take steps to warn British tourists of the danger they incur by a disregard of such advice as they may receive from either Her Majesty's Consular officers or the Turkish authorities.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 192.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 159.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, March* 31, 1882.

IN my despatch No. 17 of the 12th January I drew your Excellency's attention to a note from the Porte protesting against the conduct of the Bulgarian Government in regard to brigandage on the frontier, claims on the "Caisses des Orphelins," non-compliance with the Turkish Passport Regulations, and destruction of State property. I now inclose copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Agent at Sophia, containing the reply of the Bulgarian Government to these complaints,* and I authorize your Excellency to communicate it to the Porte as far as you may consider advisable.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 193.

Earl Granville to Mr. Ford.

(No. 40. Extender.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, March* 31, 1882.

SINCE writing my despatch to you No. 39 of the 28th instant, relative to the ill-treatment of Mussulmans near Larissa, I have received from Mr. Vice-Consul Longworth copy of his despatch to you of the 20th instant, corroborating the reports on the subject communicated to me by the Turkish Ambassador. I have to instruct you strongly to urge the Greek Government to take immediate steps to put a stop to these outrages upon Mussulmans in Thessaly.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 194.

Earl Granville to Mr. Kirby Green.

(No. 8.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, March* 31, 1882.

HER Majesty's Government have had under their consideration your despatch No. 31 of the 10th instant, reporting a conversation which took place on that date between Prince Nicholas, the Turkish Envoy, and yourself relative to an offer made by the Prince to the Porte to waive his claims to the villages of Matagus and Vladnja, on the Podgoritza plain, which were declared by the Boundary Commission to be within the Montenegrin frontier.

Her Majesty's Government concur in your opinion that it would be wise on the part of the Porte to accept the Prince's offer without delay, and they approve the advice which you gave in that sense to the Turkish Envoy.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

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* No. 156.

No. 195.

Earl Granville to Mr. White.

(No. 16.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, March* 31, 1882.

THE Turkish Ambassador has communicated to me the accompanying copy of a despatch, and its inclosure, from his Government, relative to a protest from the Greek Patriarchs of Constantinople, Alexandria, Jerusalem, and the Archbishop of Sinai, against a law recently passed by the Roumanian Legislature for the sale of some property belonging to the community of Mount Athos.*

The Turkish Government request that all action in the matter may be deferred until the settlement of the claims of the Holy Places.

I have to instruct you to inquire and report to me regarding the proceedings of the Roumanian authorities in this matter.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

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* No. 173.